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AVIAN RESPONSE TO SHRUBLAND RESTORATION IN THE FORESTED LANDSCAPE OF STERLING FOREST STATE PARK, NY.

John Confer

Biology Department, Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY 14850
confer@ithaca.edu

During the last half-century, shrublands and many of the bird species inhabiting them have declined in northeastern North America. Among these species, the Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*) (GWWA) is notable because it has actually disappeared from much of its global breeding range, especially parts of the Appalachians, New York, New Jersey, and New England (see Sauer *et al.* 2008 and *The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York* 2008). In contrast, the area in and around Sterling Forest State Park (SFSP), Orange County, New York, has supported a population of GWWA for over a century (Confer and Tupper 2000). Even here, however, shrubland habitat is now declining as it matures into forest. At the restoration site in SFSP, the subject of this report, the number of pairs of nesting GWWA declined from 2001 to 2005 (3, 3, 2, 2, 0 pairs, respectively), most likely due to an increase in tree cover.

To help sustain the GWWA, a small portion of SFSP was managed in 2006 to restore shrubland habitat. This report compares changes in avian abundance and diversity at a 36 ha survey area centered around the 2 ha restoration site, and at a 36 ha control site, before and after management activities in late winter of 2006. Changes in abundance (number of territories) were compared for two categories of area-sensitive species, those favoring the forest-interior and those favoring forest-edges.

STUDY SITES AND METHODS

The survey area is located in the Indian Hill portion of SFSP and is part of an extensive forest generally dominated by maple and oak and includes several small wetlands. A control site supported similar flora and fauna, including nesting GWWA and Blue-winged Warbler (*V. pinus*) (BWWA). In late winter 2006, woody stems were removed from four adjacent patches, each of ~0.5 ha, near the center of the experimental area. The specific sites managed in this way were in an earlier stage of succession than the surrounding forest and were dominated by red maple and white birch saplings.

We conducted pre-treatment surveys of nesting territories in 2004 and 2005, followed by post-treatment surveys in 2007 and 2008, after management activities. Results at both sites were likely influenced about equally by annual fluctuations in bird abundance and annual differences in observer skills. By

adjusting values at the restoration area for changes at the control area, it is possible to detect population shifts that are likely due to restoration of the shrubland habitat.

We created a forest survey area by erecting 36 metal posts at 100-m intervals to form a square grid of 25 ha with the 2 ha of restored shrubland in the center. A similar grid was created at the control area. Post locations were determined with laser transects, and back-sighting showed an error of <1 m in 1 km. To determine the number of nesting pairs of birds, we walked from post to post in both the experimental and control areas once a week for 7-8 weeks in late May through early July. We recorded all birds within the grid plus those within 50 m outside the grid area, creating a total survey area of 36 ha. Surveys began at 0600 hrs and were completed before 1000 hrs. We marked all birds detected during these surveys on a map that included topographic lines, paths and post locations. In addition, we mapped observations of breeding behavior by all species that were noted during our studies of GWWA and BWWA. We transcribed all bird observations to a map for each species and then used a cluster of observations as indicative of a territory. The classification of species as preferring forest-interior or forest-edge follows Freeman and Collins (1992).

RESULTS

In the survey area, the post-treatment average of the total number of territories for all species increased by 73 or 36% (205 to 278) in comparison to the pre-treatment average. In the control area, the post-treatment average of the total number of territories increased by a smaller number, 64, but a higher percentage, 43%. The contrary trends in these comparisons suggest there was no over-riding effect of shrubland restoration on the total number of nesting territories.

In the survey area, the post-treatment average number of nesting species increased by 9 or 22% (41 to 50) in comparison to the pre-treatment average. In the control area, the post-treatment average number of nesting species increased by 8 or 26% (30.5 to 38.5) in comparison to the pre-treatment average. Two of the new species at the control area, Mallard and Eastern Kingbird, clearly were attracted by a beaver pond built in the fall of 2007. The addition of Eastern Phoebe may also have been due to the new wetland habitat. We eliminated consideration of the species attracted by the beaver pond and then adjusted the values in the survey area for the remaining change in number of species at the control area. The adjusted results show a small increase of three or four nesting species at the 36 ha survey area, probably due to creation of small patches of successional habitat in a forested landscape. Several species that were present in the pre-treatment surveys increased in abundance in the altered habitat, notably the American Woodcock, which increased from one or two displaying males to at least seven displaying at once in early spring of 2006.

Many bird species nest in higher densities in large, contiguous forests than in small, forest fragments (e.g., Freeman and Collins 1989, Boulinier *et al.* 2001). Forest fragmentation and creation of forest-field edges in agricultural

landscapes is particularly harmful for these forest-interior species (Faaborg *et al.* 1992). However, in contrast to the edge of a fragmented forest surrounded by agriculture, our management created an edge between shrublands and a large, surrounding forest. To test the effect of our restoration on forest-nesting birds, we surveyed for the number of nesting pairs of area-sensitive, forest-interior species (Freeman and Collins 1989). In the 34 ha of forest surrounding the 2 ha of shrubland restoration, and in the 36 ha control area, the average number of territories for these species increased by 36 and 32.5 nesting pairs, respectively (Fig. 1, upper). The difference suggests that the number of nesting pairs of area-sensitive, forest-interior birds increased by 3.5 or 4% in the survey area around the experimental area. The increase is so small that it is most likely not statistically significant, but the trend is upward and contrary to the negative impacts associated with forest-field edges in agricultural landscapes.

We expected the number of nesting territories for area-sensitive, forest-edge species to increase. Results do show an increase in the experimental area compared to the control area by ten pairs or 66% (Fig. 1, lower). The large size of this increase suggests it is real. Both GWWA and BWWA are considered to be forest edge species, and the numbers of both these species increased within the footprint of the restoration. Other species in this guild that showed a positive response include American Woodcock, American Crow, Yellow Warbler, and Eastern Towhee.

The post-treatment surveys in 2007 and 2008 revealed four to five GWWA nests in and around the restoration site, suggesting a modest success for the restoration effort. At the same time, there were one to five BWWA nests in and around the restoration site, which raises concerns about the effect of hybridization and competition on the long-term survival of GWWA at this site.

SUMMARY

SFSP is part of the NYS Park Preserve System, and is dedicated to the conservation of all rare and declining wildlife. The decision, and its assessment, to help sustain the GWWA and other forest edge and shrubland species in this Park Preserve was balanced by consideration of possible impacts on declining forest species. In the end, our restoration showed no clear effect on the total number of nesting birds and a small increase in the number of nesting species. There was a strong increase in forest-edge species and no decline in number of territories of area-sensitive, forest-interior species around the restoration area. GWWA were reestablished at the site, even though they are declining in nearby areas. However, the restoration also attracted BWWA and the final outcome of interactions between these species is not known. Overall, creation of small shrublands in a landscape of extensive and nearly unbroken forest seems to have had a favorable effect on the avian community.

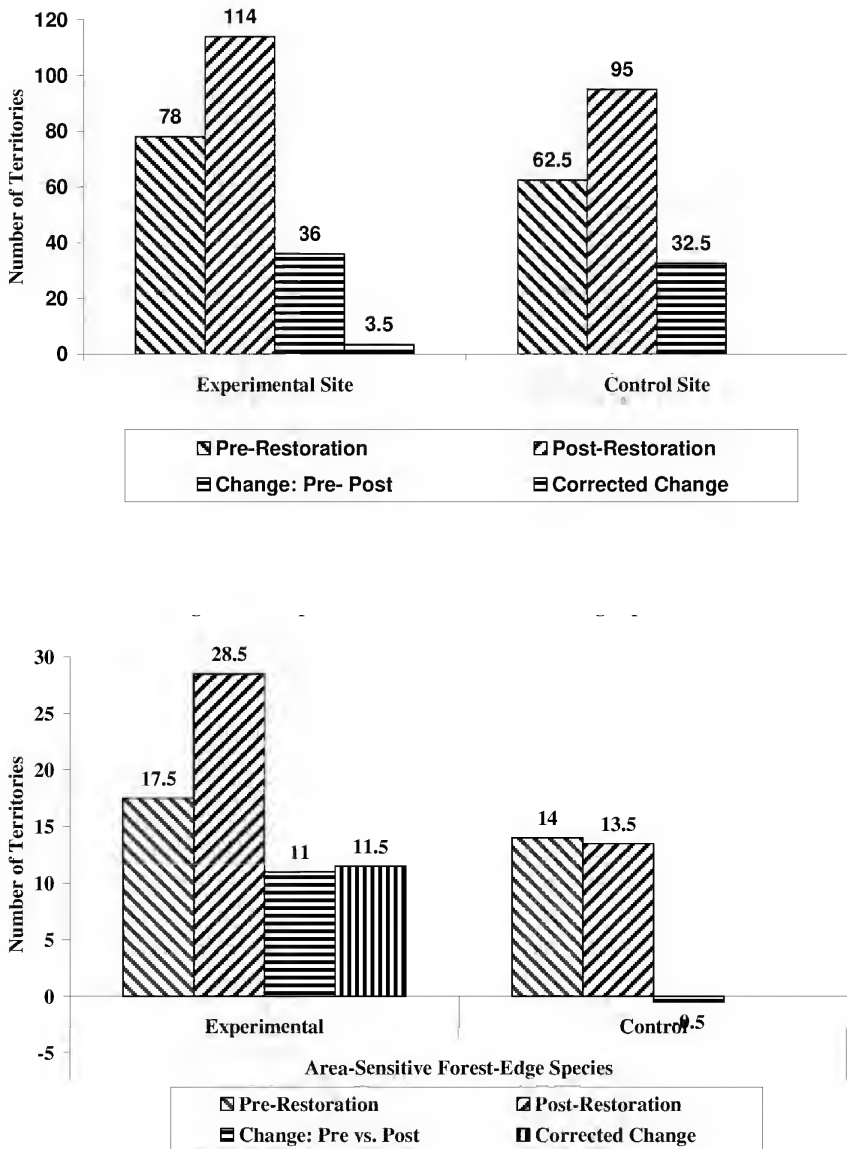


Figure 1. Responses of area-sensitive forest-interior (top) and area-sensitive forest-edge (bottom) bird species to shrubland restoration. The fourth bar for the experimental area shows the change in the experimental area corrected by subtracting the change observed in the control area.

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SOME NOTES ON THE FALL MIGRATION OF BICKNELL'S AND GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSHES IN NEW YORK STATE AND EASTERN UNITED STATES

Elizabeth Brooks and Dominic Sherony

Braddock Bay Bird Observatory, Greece NY

Abstract—Banding data for Bicknell's and Gray-cheeked Thrushes were obtained and analyzed across the northern United States and Canada in order to understand fall migratory paths and timing. A series of inland records, including 12 from Braddock Bay Bird Observatory, near Rochester, New York, shows that some immature Bicknell's Thrushes regularly migrate west of the main coastal route and these birds possibly go south on the west side of the Appalachian Mountains. Coastal timing of Bicknell's Thrush and Gray-cheeked Thrush are both later than inland timing. And finally, the relative abundance of Bicknell's Thrush with respect to Gray-cheeked Thrush seems to have decreased between 1972 and 2001.

About 1996, revised criteria were established to distinguish Bicknell's Thrush (*Catharus bicknelli*) and Gray-cheeked Thrush (*C. minimus*) in the hand (Ouellet 1993; Wilson and Watts 1997; Rimmer, *et. al.* 2001). Collectively, these two thrushes can be separated from all other *Catharus* thrushes by plumage, but these two are extremely similar in appearance, differing most consistently in terms of wing chord: values of 93 mm or less indicate Bicknell's Thrush; values of 94-98 mm are indeterminate; and values of 99 mm and greater indicate Gray-cheeked Thrush. Birds with intermediate wing chords are mostly male Bicknell's and female Gray-cheeked Thrushes. This method allows recognition of at least 85% of all Bicknell's Thrushes.

Survey work was carried out to map the extent of the breeding range of Bicknell's Thrush (Atwood, *et. al.* 1996; Ouellet 1993). The breeding range is restricted to New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, Quebec, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia. At least 85% of the breeding range is north of Lake Ontario and virtually 100% of this range is east of that lake. Bicknell's Thrush is known to be a coastal migrant in fall with few records south of Virginia, and they winter primarily in the Dominican Republic (Rimmer, *et. al.* 2001).

Banders at Braddock Bay Bird Observatory (BBBO), on the south shore of Lake Ontario, near Rochester, NY, have captured an average of one Bicknell's Thrush each fall season for the past 11 years (12 records in 11 years). This location is approximately 140 miles west of the breeding range. Although this is a small sample, it constitutes a significant fraction of the total number of Bicknell's Thrushes banded in fall in the eastern US over this time period. The purpose of this work is to review the data from BBBO for Bicknell's Thrush and

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Gray-cheeked Thrush in the context of the migratory pattern of these species as it is defined by eastern US banding records.

METHODS

Banding data for the fall migration period (1 August to mid-November) were obtained from the USGS Bird Banding Laboratory (BBL) for all Bicknell's, Gray-cheeked and indeterminate Bicknell's/Gray-cheeked Thrushes banded in the eastern US between 1996 and 2006. Banding data were also obtained from the Canadian Wildlife Service for the same species for banding stations on the north side of the Great Lakes. The year 1996 was chosen as a start date for this study because banders could use a robust wing chord criterion to identify Bicknell's Thrush after that date. Bird banding data submitted to the government agencies do not include wing chord measurements, and no effort was made to contact banding stations to obtain wing chord data for captures prior to 1996. For a few records that were at the extreme ranges of date or location, the original banders were contacted and the method of identification verified. A very small number of banding records listed as Bicknell's Thrush but not meeting the 1996 criteria were found and not used in this analysis.

For US data, the present analysis is based on fall records from the following states: MA, RI, CT, NY, NJ, MD, VA, PA, OH, and WV. There were no records for MI, IL, and IN. Bicknell's Thrushes banded on their breeding grounds in VT between 1 August and 26 September ($N = 49$) were considered non-migrants and were not used in the analysis. Single fall records from NC, SC, FL, and GA were not used in this analysis because they were south of the region of interest. Twelve records from AL were south of the region of interest and furthermore open to doubt because DNA work showed that some were not Bicknell's Thrushes and because there are at present no fully verified records for AL (G. Hill, pers. comm.). Three of four records from West Virginia involved wing chords outside of the 1996 criteria and were not included. A bird banded on 22 August 1998, just east of the species' known breeding range in NY, was not verified using the 1996 criteria and was earlier than any known fall migrant. This record might represent an instance of post-breeding dispersal and was not included in the analysis. A Gray-cheeked Thrush banded on 4 August in the coastal US was not included because it was out of character with the full set of data.

The remaining data were separated by three geographic regions: Canada, interior US, and coastal US. Coastal US was defined as the region within 100 miles of the Atlantic Ocean. The geographic sampling included 13 major banding locations in Canada, 12 in interior US, and 13 in coastal US, as well as numerous sites reporting smaller numbers of these thrushes in each of the regions. Most of the Canadian and interior US banding locations were near Lakes Ontario and Erie.

Migration timing distributions were calculated by daily totals over the 11 year period and the data were again divided by the regions cited above. Records of indeterminate thrushes were not used in determining timing distributions or average properties. The ratio of Bicknell's Thrush to Gray-cheeked Thrush was calculated for banding locations where sufficient data had been obtained.

RESULTS

Between 1996 and 2006, 97 Bicknell's Thrushes were banded during fall migration in the northeastern US (MA, RI, CT, NY, NJ, MD, VA, PA, OH, and WV), and four were banded in Ontario (one from Prince Edward Point, on the north side of Lake Ontario, and three from Selkirk Provincial Park on the north side of Lake Erie, opposite Erie, PA). During the same period there were 2,800 records for Gray-cheeked Thrush in the northeastern US and 3,836 in Ontario. A majority of Bicknell's Thrush records (72 of 101) were from the coastal US. The 25 interior US records included 12 from BBBO, NY, one from nearby Hamlin Beach State Park, one from Erie, PA, two from just south of Lake Erie in OH, and one from West Virginia. Considering the Ontario and interior US data together, no fewer than 20 records came from the shores of Lakes Ontario (14) and Erie (6).

Table 1 summarizes capture totals, median dates, average dates, standard deviations (SD), and earliest and latest records for both species, segregated by the three geographic regions: Ontario, interior US, and coastal US.

Table 1. Fall migration dates for Bicknell's and Gray-cheeked Thrushes in Ontario, interior US, and coastal US, 1996-2006.

	N	Median	Mean	SD	Earliest	Latest
GCTH, Ontario,	3,836	23 Sep	22 Sep	7.7	18 Aug	31 Oct
GCTH, int US	1,650	26 Sep	26 Sep	6.6	31 Aug	3 Nov
GCTH, coast US	1,110	2 Oct	2 Oct	7.9	1 Sep	11 Nov
GCTH, all US	2,800	28 Sep	28 Sep	7.6	31 Aug	11 Nov
BITH, Ontario	4	-	-	-	-	-
BITH, int US	25	24 Sep	25 Sep	8.5	13 Sep	28 Oct
BITH, coast US	72	7 Oct	8 Oct	11.0	19 Sep	5 Nov
BITH, all US	97	5 Oct	4 Oct	12.0	13 Sep	5 Nov

For both species, records from inland areas appear to be consistently earlier than those from coastal areas, in terms of median dates, mean dates, and extreme dates. For Bicknell's Thrush, the mean date of inland records is 13 days earlier than the mean date of coastal records, but the inland sample is small (25).

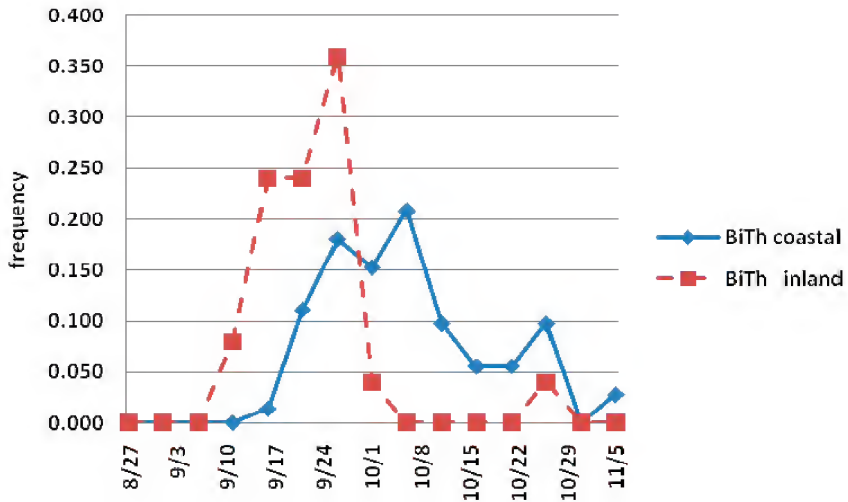


Figure 1. Bicknell's Thrush fall timing distribution separated by coastal and interior US, 1996-2006. Frequency refers to the proportion of each region's total captures that were recorded within each five-day interval ($N = 72$ for coastal US and $N = 25$ for interior US).

The peak of Bicknell's Thrush migration in inland areas also appears to be more concentrated around the average date than the peak of migration in coastal areas ($SD = 8.5$ inland vs. 11.0 coastal; Fig. 1), perhaps implying that birds are more apt to linger along the coast; however, this is based on samples of only 25 and 72 records.

Figure 2 compares the timing distributions for Gray-cheeked Thrush in the three geographic regions. The majority ($> 85\%$) of Ontario data came from the north sides of Lakes Erie and Ontario. The average fall timing for Gray-cheeked Thrush in Ontario was four days earlier than in the interior US, as would be expected because of Ontario's position further north. Even though there was a difference in mean dates between Ontario and the interior US, the distributions for these two regions were virtually the same (chi squared test). In contrast, the earlier timing of interior US vs. coastal US migrants (six days) was statistically significant (chi squared test, $p < 0.0001$; $z = 24.3$, $p < 0.0001$).

Over the eleven year period 1996-2006, the percentage of adults (after hatching-year birds) among all birds aged was 23% for Gray-cheeked Thrush, in both coastal and inland locations. Bicknell's Thrush averaged 22% adults on the coast, but only 8% adults in the interior: of 24 birds aged at inland sites, only two were adults, one each from Ithaca, NY, and West Virginia; all of the others were hatching-year birds.

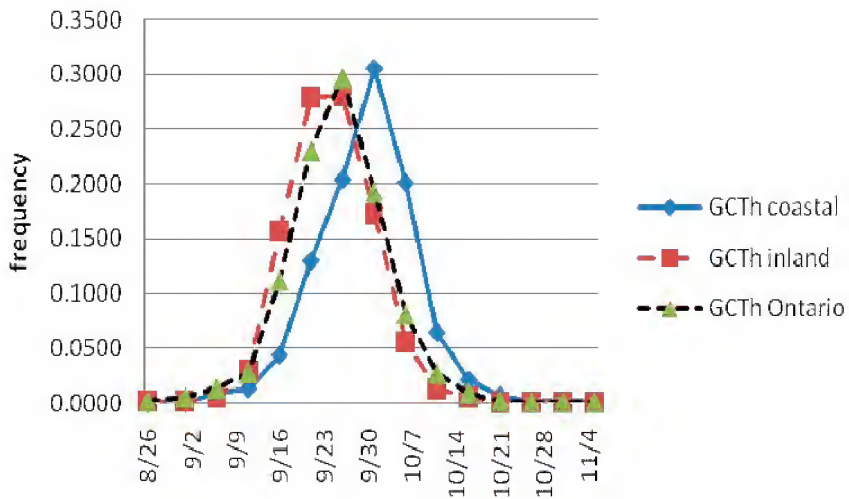


Figure 2. Gray-cheeked Thrush fall timing distribution separated by Ontario, interior US, and coastal US, 1996-2006. Frequency refers to the proportion of each region's total captures that were recorded within each five-day interval (N = 3,836 for Ontario; N = 1,650 for interior US; and N = 1,110 for coastal US).

DISCUSSION

Two trends in the fall banding data deserve discussion. First, there was an unexpectedly large number of records of Bicknell's Thrush from interior sites. Based on banding reports, as many as 20% of fall migrant Bicknell's Thrushes were detected as far west as the eastern Great Lakes. Admittedly, this estimate is based on small samples and on assumptions that capture probabilities were comparable among sites and that data reported to the Bird Banding Lab were representative of all actual captures. Despite these uncertainties, however, it is clear that Bicknell's Thrush occurs regularly in fall along the eastern Great Lakes. The positions of records along the north shore of Lake Ontario (1), south shore of Lake Ontario (13), north shore of Lake Erie (3), and south shore of Lake Erie (3) suggest that Bicknell's Thrushes regularly cross these lakes during fall migration (Fig. 3). Based on verified banding records from as far west as OH and as far southwest as WV, it appears likely that some individuals proceed south on the west side of the Appalachian Mountains. Virtually all (92%) of Bicknell's Thrushes banded in the interior US were hatching-year birds.

The second point of interest in the migration data is the fact that, for both Bicknell's and Gray-cheeked Thrushes, fall migration dates were consistently earlier in the interior than along the coast. For the Gray-cheeked Thrush, these differences in timing could reflect differences in migration strategies among various populations such as those breeding in Manitoba versus those breeding in Atlantic Canada.

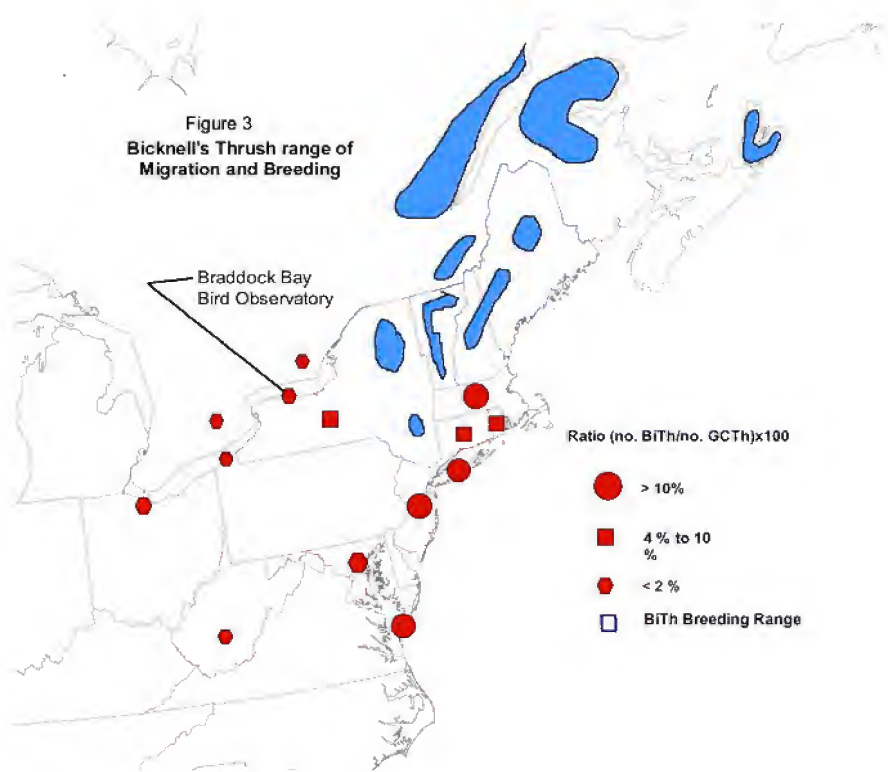


Figure 3. Relative numbers of Bicknell's and Gray-cheeked Thrushes captured during fall migration in Ontario and the eastern United States, 1996-2006. The breeding range is from Rimmer *et. al.* (2001). Data are displayed as ratios because effort data were not available to normalize capture rates among different banding stations.

Wilson and Watts (1997) measured and compared the timing of migration for Bicknell's and Gray-cheeked Thrushes at Kiptopeke, VA, based on daily summed captures, and compared the variation in timing in four of the 27 years of their studies (1968, 1969, 1971, and 1980). Identification was based on the wing chord criteria described above and indeterminate individuals were not included in the averages cited below. They found that the median timing of the two species was statistically the same in three of the four years. Bicknell's Thrush had median dates ranging from 4 to 7 October, and Gray-cheeked ranged from 2 to 7 October. These dates are consistent with the summed data from the coastal region for the 1996 to 2006 time period, which had median dates of 7 October for Bicknell's Thrush and 2 October for Gray-cheeked Thrush.

In their four selected years, Wilson and Watts' data showed an average ratio of Bicknell's to Gray-cheeked of 44% (excluding indeterminate birds), or 30% (including them). In the present work, the comparable ratio was calculated for

banding stations that had sufficient numbers of captures to make a reasonable estimate. For such sites in the coastal region, the ratio was above 10%, whereas it averaged 6.5% over the entire coastal region, including sites with small capture totals. The ratio of Bicknell's to Gray-cheeked was 1% at the inland BBBO site. The most recent results are different from those obtained by Wilson and Watts, but those authors had more data and possibly more reliable identification information as a basis for their ratio. Nevertheless, differences between the two sets of data could suggest that the absolute number of Bicknell's Thrush has decreased in the approximately 30-year time span between these estimates (ca. 1972 vs. ca. 2001). During the four years when Wilson and Watts estimated average timing, they captured about 70 Bicknell's Thrushes per year, significantly higher numbers than the data we obtained from the BBL for the entire US. It is possible that not all data are reported to the BBL or that some banders are still not properly identifying some of the captured thrushes. Or it could mean that the number of Bicknell's Thrushes captured on migration has, indeed, decreased, both in total, and relative to the number of Gray-cheeked Thrushes captured.

Even though the number of fall migrant Bicknell's Thrushes banded in the eastern part of the continent averages only about nine birds per year, there is enough evidence over the past 11 years to draw some inferences about their migration habits when the data are sorted by coastal and inland areas and compared to records of Gray-cheeked Thrush. More Bicknell's Thrushes are found in the inland part of the continent than would be expected based on their winter range, and there are slight differences in the timing of migration between interior and coastal regions.

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THE FALL 2008 IRRUPTION OF PINE SISKINS IN SOUTHEASTERN NEW YORK

Cameron Rutt

PO Box 223, Blooming Glen, PA 18911

cameronrutt@gmail.com

Although the winter of 2008/09 may be remembered most for the large numbers of White-winged Crossbills that graced the Northeast, it was also a tremendous year for a lesser finch, the Pine Siskin (*Spinus pinus*). What seemed to be unprecedented numbers—at least compared to flights documented in New York State in the past—descended in swarms up and down the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic, beginning in mid-October in New York. A small, but critical, piece of the puzzle was unraveled at regional hawk watches, primarily in Connecticut, New York, and Pennsylvania in the East. Chestnut Ridge Hawk Watch, situated just southwest of Bedford, Westchester County, and approximately 12 miles from the coast of Long Island Sound, was my vantage point for the fall flight, where an impressive 14,000 Pine Siskins were tallied.

Pine Siskins engage in unpredictable irruptions, varying considerably in regional winter abundance from one year to the next (Dawson 1997). This pattern is evident in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic, where the species' status is described in one way or another as extremely erratic (Veit and Petersen 1993; Levine 1998; McWilliams and Brauning 2000). Although by no means inflexible, the general rule of thumb is for biennial Pine Siskin irruptions (Dawson 1997). Alongside White-winged Crossbills, the fall 2008 flight of Pine Siskins in the East had considerable geographic breadth, reaching Missouri, Iowa, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Florida by November (Lehman and Brinkley 2009). Brinkley noted that, "east of the Great Lakes, Pine Siskins may have outdone every previous flight on record in terms of the geographic extent of the flight (2009)." Upwards of 400 were located in as far-flung places as North Carolina and Georgia, with Georgia CBCs compiling a state record 2326 birds (Blankenship 2009). In Florida, six siskins reached the southeastern outpost of mainland North America, appearing close to Flamingo, Everglades National Park in late February (Anderson and Bankert 2009). Unfortunately, aside from anecdotal information, little is known about migratory behavior in the Pine Siskin (Dawson 1997).

The onset of the 2008 siskin flight was very rapid. As the calendar approached mid-October, there was a surge of Pine Siskins throughout the region, from the New England states to at least Pennsylvania and New Jersey, with seemingly fewer birds reported south of there. The first siskins to arrive at Chestnut Ridge appeared on 11 October when at least 20 birds in three flocks passed. The siskin count increased considerably the next day, when 175 birds in seven flocks were conservatively recorded. These, along with 500+ reported that day from Blueberry Hill, Massachusetts, barely hinted at the flood of finches that would follow. Shortly after arriving at the hawk watch on 13 October, a

calling flock of approximately 60 birds flew directly overhead, the first sign of what would be a staggering passage of birds. Tait Johansson joined me up at the watch and together we counted/estimated the knots of flyby siskins, reaching a final tally of 2,524 birds. Altogether, 73 flocks were noted with an average flock size of 35, though flocks as large as 133, 90 (twice), 85, 80 (twice), and 75 birds were recorded. Siskins continued flying until shortly after 17:00 DST, with nearly a hundred birds in the following half hour. Lighthouse Point, Connecticut, managed an equally impressive 2,900 that day. Suddenly, the region was inundated with siskins.

Realizing the unique opportunity available to us, we made a deliberate effort to tally Pine Siskin figures at Chestnut Ridge throughout the remainder of the fall season (Fig. 1). A week after the 13 October deluge, 20-21 October brought back-to-back days of 1,261 and 1,389 birds. But for the rest of the month, the Pine Siskin movement slackened, losing momentum almost as quickly as it had been gained, until 1 November, when 1,272+ siskins in 56 flocks again teemed across the horizon. The flight continued at a good clip, with another 1,000+ day on 4 November (1,075+), until 12 November (434+ in 22 flocks), the last day of triple-digits for Pine Siskins at Chestnut Ridge. At this point, there seemed to be a regional changing of the guards, with American Goldfinches picking up precisely when Pine Siskin figures began to plunge. This was also detected at Lighthouse Point, except in more substantial numbers than at Chestnut Ridge. For Lighthouse Point, the first day over 200 American Goldfinches occurred 10 November (1,800), a day that also saw a stunning 5,900 Pine Siskins. The reversal was complete a few days later (16 November), when American Goldfinches (3,100) greatly outnumbered Pine Siskins (210). Mirroring the situation on the mainland, Long Island observers noted an almost identical temporal turnover from siskins to goldfinches (Mitra 2009).

Away from Chestnut Ridge, the second week of November produced peak siskin flights in Connecticut, New York, and Pennsylvania (Table 1). For example, Bake Oven Knob, Pennsylvania, recorded their best flight on 7 November (1,251) while farther down the line, Hawk Mountain, Pennsylvania, witnessed their best passage 11 November (1,435). Away from hawk watches, large numbers of siskins were at last present on Long Island and, to a lesser extent, New York City, beginning in November. A massive movement occurred along Long Island's barrier beaches on 10 November. In just 2.5 hours of early morning birding, Ken and Sue Feustel recorded a colossal 6,800 birds at Jones Beach (Ken Feustel, pers. comm.). Meanwhile, at nearby Robert Moses State Park, Shai Mitra and Pat Lindsay posted a remarkably similar 6,520 (Mitra 2009; Shai Mitra, pers. comm.). Presumably, there was substantial overlap between these two counts. From available records, these are the highest single-site fall counts for the state of New York, and may well be for this region at any time of the year. Two other Long Island counts broke quadruple digits this fall: Mitra and Lindsay's 1,692 on 1 November and Lindsay's 1,000 on 18 November (Mitra 2009; Shai Mitra, pers. comm.). In Central Park, Manhattan, conservative estimates of 200+ were the highest counts, on 11 and 16 November (Tom Fiore, pers. comm.).

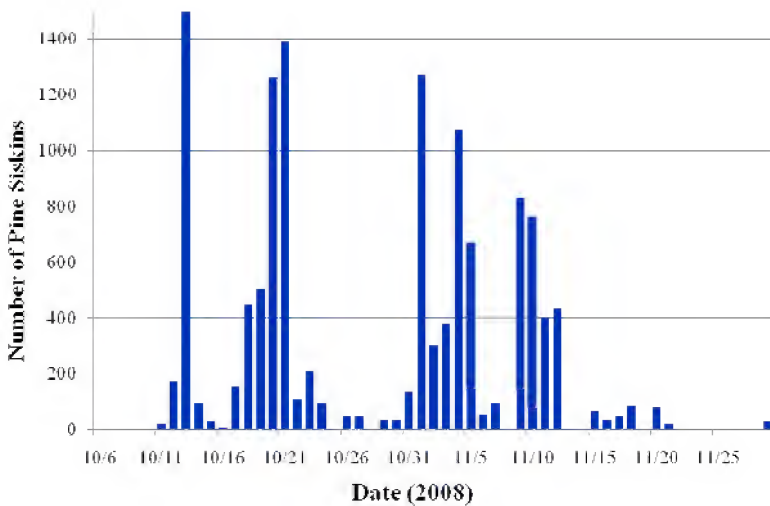


Figure 1. Daily counts of Pine Siskins migrating past Chestnut Ridge Hawk Watch, fall 2008. Counts were conducted daily from late Aug through 21 Nov, and on 29 Nov. The peak count (2,524 on 13 October), could not be fitted to this scale.

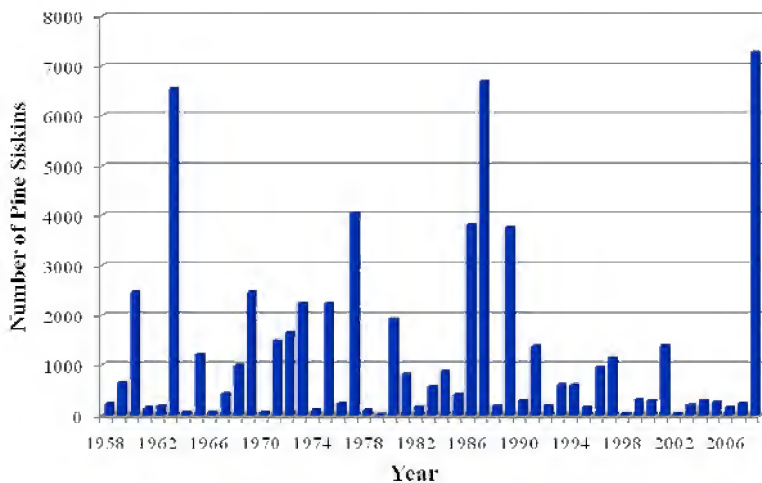


Figure 2. Statewide totals of Pine Siskin from New York State Christmas Bird Counts, 1958/59 to 2008/09. Years specify Dec for each CBC season (2008 = 2008/09).

Unlike the pattern observed at coastal sites, the siskin flights at Chestnut Ridge were, as a rule, late-day phenomena. The most productive hour of 13 October's onslaught was from 16:00-17:00 DST (581). Likewise, of the 1,272 siskins totaled on 1 November, more than 1,000 came in the last two hours of the count. Again, of the 1,598+ siskins seen during the three day span 10-12 November, 1,162+ (72.7%) passed during the last 1.5 hours of effort, 14:00-

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15:30 EST. Finch flights are typically something that I associate with early mornings so this seeming anomaly was particularly interesting. Flights in New York City, Long Island, and Lighthouse Point were all described as early morning events (Tom Fiore, pers. comm.; Ken Feustel, pers. comm.; Greg Hanisek, pers. comm.), with the flights continuing later into the morning on days with heavier passages (Greg Hanisek, pers. comm.). Early mornings have long been associated with Pine Siskin movements at Jones Beach, Long Island, where Elliot (1957) noted counts of quadruple digits tabulated before 9:30 EST. Because Chestnut Ridge was not typically staffed until 9:00 DST (followed by 9:00 EST after the time change 2 November), it is hard to know how the early mornings fared. And late afternoons weren't a hard and fast rule either. The hour 10:00-11:00 DST on 13 October featured 502 siskins, and 9:00-10:00 DST was the peak hour (354+) during 21 October's 1,389 bird blitz.

To determine the historical frequency of comparably large flights, I searched for single-day counts exceeding 1,000 individuals, using Bull (1964) and the fall Regional reports of *The Kingbird* (1950-2008). I found records of 16 such days during ten prior falls: 1946, 1951, 1952, 1965, 1969, 1971, 1975, 1977, 1980, and 1999 (Table 2). These data show that large fall incursions of Pine Siskins in New York are relatively infrequent, occurring in 11 of 63 years (17.5%), and they have occurred even less frequently in recent years. If the past 50 years are divided in half (1959-1983 and 1984-2008), siskin flights occurred in 24% of the former years, in contrast to only 8% of the last 25 years. Even so, the flight of fall 2008 exceeded all of the others in terms of magnitude (single-day maximum 6,800), frequency (seven single-day counts >1,000), and duration (counts of >1,000 were recorded 13 October-18 November, a 37 day period).

During a finch exodus, fall concentrations are most obvious along coastal or near coastal regions. Prior to 2008, only one fall contained a four-digit day away from Region 10 – Marine, a 1971 tally from Sodus Bay, Region 2 – Genesee. Chestnut Ridge falls within Region 9 – Hudson-Delaware, but its proximity to Long Island Sound draws coastal comparisons. Hands-down, however, the best sites for the state are on Long Island's barrier beaches, where Fire Island, Jones Beach, and Riis Park have long been recognized as sites to witness flocks of westbound finches. Elliot (1957) noted their "great abundance in November" with upwards of 1,000 birds counted by mid-morning, the best flights occurring on clear days with northwest winds. Prior to 10 November 2008, the most notable single-day migration occurred on 19 October 1969, when 5,080+ flew past Fire Island and 4,000+ were seen over Riis Park (Davis and Morgan 1970).

Table 1. Peak single-day and total counts of Pine Siskins from three hawkwatches in the northeastern USA, fall 2008.

Site	Peak Date	Peak Count	Total
Chestnut Ridge, NY	13 Oct	2,524	13,946
Lighthouse Pt, CT	10 Nov	5,900	25,391
Hawk Mt, PA	11 Nov	1,435	9,001

Table 2. Single-day fall Pine Siskin counts greater than 1,000 in NYS (1946-2008).

Year	Date	Number	Location	Source
1946	Nov 9	1,500	JBSP ^{1,2}	Bull 1964
1951	Nov 9	1,500	Riis Park	
1952	Oct 27	2,000	Orient	
	Nov 9	1,500	JBSP	
1965	Oct 24	1,000+	JBSP	Davis & Heath 1966
	Oct 25	1,000	Tiana Beach	
	Oct 27	1,000+	JBSP	
1969	Oct 19	5,080+	Fire Island ³	Davis & Morgan 1970
	Oct 19	4,000+	Riis Park	
	Oct 25	1,000+	Riis Park	
1971	Oct 10	1,000	Sodus Bay (Region 2)	O'Hara 1972
1975	Nov 23	2,500	RMSP ⁴	Lauro & Spencer 1976
1977	Oct 22	2,000	Riis Park	Lauro 1978
1980	Oct 13	1,400	JBSP / Fire Island	Spencer 1981
	Nov 2	1,000	Tobay	
1999	Oct 24	1,100	JBSP / RMSP	Mitra, pers. comm.
	Oct 27	2,000	Fire Island	
2008	Oct 13	2,524	Chestnut Ridge	Rutt, present paper
	Oct 20	1,261	Chestnut Ridge	
	Oct 21	1,389	Chestnut Ridge	
	Nov 1	1,272+	Chestnut Ridge	
	Nov 1	1,692	RMSP	Mitra 2009
	Nov 4	1,075+	Chestnut Ridge	Rutt, present paper
	Nov 10	6,520 ⁵	RMSP	Mitra 2009
	Nov 10	6,800 ⁵	JBSP	Feustel, pers. comm.
	Nov 18	1,000	RMSP	Mitra 2009

¹JBSP—Jones Beach SP, Nassau; ²This is the only count >1,000 prior to the *Kingbird* era, 1950 to present; ³described as a conservative estimate, with the actual figure probably well over 7,000; ⁴RMSP—Robert Moses SP, Suffolk; ⁵Many of the birds passing these two sites were likely the same.

Table 3. Top ten statewide CBC totals for Pine Siskin in New York, 1958/59-2008/09.

Year	Number of Birds	Birds / Party-Hour
1975/76	2256	0.58
1973/74	2270	0.41
1969/70	2474	0.71
1960/61	2475	1.47
1989/90	3764	1.04
1986/87	3825	0.47
1977/78	4052	0.67
1963/64	6551	2.31
1987/88	6695	1.95
2008/09	7295	1.41

As it turned out, the hawkwatches at Chestnut Ridge and Lighthouse Point, Connecticut, played a leading role in quantifying the fall 2008 invasion, documenting more Pine Siskins than any other single sites. Although the flights of 2008 were the largest on record in New York, several seasons during the last 50 years have produced notably high counts in nearby states. In Cape May, New Jersey, between 4,000 and 5,000 siskins were registered on 29 October and 10 November 1973, the largest figures on record for that state (Walsh *et al.* 1999). John Granton quantified finch movements at Lighthouse Point in the late 1980s, and recorded seasonal totals of 2,932 in 1986 and 10,081 in 1987 (Greg Hanisek, pers. comm.). Farther afield, the highest single-site count for Massachusetts involved 1,000 at Provincetown on 23 October 1977 (Veit and Petersen 1993). Similarly the aforementioned thousands that passed Fire Island and Riis Park 19 October 1969 (Davis and Morgan 1970) suggest that that season probably rivaled fall 2008 in New York. Following each of the very large fall flights just mentioned (1969, 1973, 1977, 1986, 1987, and 2008), thousands of Pine Siskins were recorded on New York's Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs; Fig. 2), and the statewide CBC totals for each of these six winters are among New York's top ten ever (Table 3).

However, fall flights don't always correlate with statewide winter concentrations of siskins. According to Walsh *et al.*, "it is just as likely that migrants will move farther south, leaving New Jersey with only modest winter numbers (1999)." In New York, for instance, the best example is 1999. That year, along the southern shore of Long Island, Mitra and Lindsay totaled 3100 birds on two days between 24 and 27 October (Shai Mitra, pers. comm.). That winter yielded a mere 318 Pine Siskins throughout all of New York. All other flight years—as outlined in Table 3—had at least moderate, if not excellent, winter showings. Recent New York CBC data also suggest that major Pine Siskin flights have become less frequent than in the past. Whereas statewide totals of >2,000 birds occurred three times apiece during the three decades, 1960-1990, only three winter totals exceeded 1,000 since 1989/90, and none exceeded 2,000—until the winter of 2008/09.

Perhaps like never before, in 2008 the hawk watches were able to do more than simply sound the alarm of a major finch flight. Whereas CBCs might tell more about the birds' final destinations, hawk watches offer an opportunity to shed light on the actual movement of irruptive finch flights. Consider Hawk Ridge, Minnesota, where phenomenal figures such as 3691 White-winged Crossbills, 20,139 Common Redpolls, and 8,051 Pine Siskins were tallied during fall 2008 (Karl Bardon, pers. comm.). As with raptors, the concentrated nature of finch flights—along shorelines and ridges—allows for more precise quantification of a flight than counts of dispersed birds on their wintering grounds. If the consistent, daily effort characteristic of hawk watches were applied at a few more strategic sites, much additional useful information could be gathered.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Tait Johansson helped to count Pine Siskins at Chestnut Ridge. Karl Bardon, Ken Fuestel, Tom Fiore, Greg Hanisek, and Shai Mitra shared information about siskin movements during 2008 and other years, and Tom Johnson helped me to access additional resources. Shai Mitra and an anonymous reviewer provided helpful comments on previous drafts of the manuscript.

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NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

A FLYCATCHER'S TALE: THREE BIRDERS, TWO STOPS ON THE A-TRAIN, AND ONE SPECIAL BIRD

For people in New York City, especially birders, having a car is a luxury, and carpooling is a familiar occurrence. On Saturday, 21 November 2009, I was on the phone with my friends Rich Aracil and Heydi Lopes, going back and forth trying to decide where to be picked up the following morning. Rich had a car his father had lent him, and we were planning to go to Jones Beach, Long Island, to look for recently reported Black-legged Kittiwakes and Snow Buntings and any other goodies that might show up.

Wanting to do as little city driving as possible, Rich at first thought it would be best if we met up near where he lives in the Bronx. After looking at a map, I quickly saw that it would be better for all of us to meet at the Lefferts Boulevard A-Train station and informed Rich and Heydi of the plan. Only 30 minutes later, I realized that that it would be even more convenient to meet instead at the Aqueduct-North Conduit A-Train station. This way, I could just take the A train from Manhattan and Heydi could just take a bus and a train without having to make the trek into Manhattan on a Sunday morning train schedule. The fateful plan was in place; we all agreed to meet at 10:30am at the Aqueduct-North Conduit station.

The following morning, Rich, being a little too eager, got there about 40 minutes early. Heydi was 15 minutes early, and I was like 10 minutes late (sorry guys!). Before meeting up with them, I took my binoculars out. Rich had his car parked two blocks down the street. As we were exiting the train station, we shared anecdotes of our biological fieldwork, banding projects, and bird sightings, and looked forward to our planned day of birding at Jones Beach.

Although not completely paved-over, the short walk to the car was through an area anyone would categorize as urban. It was noisy and bustling with weekend motorists; immediately to our left, we had the busy traffic of North Conduit Avenue and the constant din of cars rushing down the nearby Belt Parkway. To our right was a neglected property occupied by a few graffiti-scrawled, dilapidated buildings and a vacant lot overgrown with mostly non-native vegetation and littered with trash. All of this was surrounded by a deteriorating chain-link fence.

We were making our way down the sidewalk, with Rich telling me of his bird banding work in Ohio this summer, when, out of the corner of my eye, a uniquely avian movement caught my attention. I trained my eyes on the spot, through the fence some 7 ft high and about 12 ft away. With my bare eyes I could see that the bird was about the size of a tanager, with a very pale belly contrasting with a gray back, and bill shaped like that of a flycatcher, and I immediately blurted out, "Flycatcher!" Rich and Heydi were at first not sure where I was referring to as they both scrambled to locate the bird.

The sun was behind us so any picture opportunity would have been ideal. The temperature was warmer than predicted by the weather station at 55° F, with <10% cloud cover and winds <4 mph. It was certainly a good day to go birding at Jones beach. But not today—little did we know our original plan was dead in the water before we even got in the car!

With a little observation, I was able to identify the bird as an Ash-throated Flycatcher. I guess it's hard to believe one can identify such a bird so quickly, but I have seen this species many times on its "normal" range. I'm aware that the next thing birders might say is: "that's not enough reason to reach that conclusion" but experience in identifying these birds can be extremely helpful. Ash-throated Flycatcher is found in the western US and south to Honduras, favoring open habitat and foraging from near ground to mid level. It is a rare but regular late fall vagrant to the east coast, including Long Island. It can be distinguished from the other *Myiarchus* species by behavior, plumage, voice, and habitat. Great-crested Flycatcher breeds in eastern North America and winters in southern Mexico to northern South America, in general favoring the edge canopy of wooded habitats. Although this is the expected species of *Myiarchus* in New York in spring and summer, it is very rare here in late fall. Its rather bright yellow belly and deeply gray upper breast are very unlike the bird we found in Queens on this late November day. Brown-crested, Nutting's and Dusky-capped Flycatchers are very unlikely to occur in New York, and furthermore differ from the bird we saw in details such as the patterns of the wing and tail feathers.

With the bird still on its original perch, Rich sprinted back to the car to get his camera and binoculars. Within a minute or so, we had all of our our equipment ready. I began to get set up to take digiscoped shots while Rich and Heydi scrutinized the bird and its behavior in order to clinch the identification, also trying to get good photos to document the find. Of course, three birders and all their optical gear in the middle of an environment like this stirred the curiosity of a passerby. The man asked us what we where looking at. Being courteous, although not at all interested in talking at the moment, I started explaining to him what we were seeing instead of focusing my attention on the bird. The bird then flew low to the ground to forage in the shrubby vegetation. It then perched on a branch above. I made several attempts at photographing the bird, but my efforts were in vain. Next the bird flew up into a tree, perched momentarily, but then flew behind the buildings in the lot.

We ran around the block, lugging our scope, binoculars and field guides to behind the building, where we were greeted with a fine selection of trash—from McDonald's burger wrappers and various plastics to tires and all manner of refuse in between. After some 20 minutes we were able to again locate the bird foraging low to the ground around a thicket of mugwort. We would alternately lose the bird and then locate it again after watching for movement in the low shrubs and by searching through whatever birds flew by, mostly Dark-eyed Juncos and House Sparrows. We had to use this strategy repeatedly in order to observe behavior, plumage or any other characteristics. During one of the breaks between sightings, Rich called Lloyd Spanaltik, the moderator and owner of the

rare bird listserv Metro Birding Briefs, in order to quickly get word out to the birding community.

Suddenly the Ash-throated Flycatcher flew a block away toward another abandoned fenced-off lot, where we quickly lost sight of it. We searched for over 40 minutes but came up with nothing. At that time, the idea that the bird may have left the area, never to be seen again, was starting to creep into our minds. We began reviewing the images on our cameras and, although Rich and I got hardly anything conclusive, we were relieved to see that Heydi managed to get one blurry shot that was at least identifiable to genus. We were glad to have something tangible to support our sighting.

I decided I would walk over to where we originally found the bird, but after several minutes, Heydi motioned to tell me she had relocated it. We all ran over and were treated to more off-and-on views for about another hour. By 12:40 or so we were ready to head for Jones Beach, to resume our original plan for the day. That's when Andrew Baksh pulled up as the "first responder" to our report. We got him on the bird in a matter of minutes, and two of his photos can be seen on page 44 of this issue. Over the next two hours, ten or so more birders arrived to see the bird as well. Watching all the people show up to share in our find was a lot of fun so we decided to stay and scrap our plan for Jones Beach.

It's amazing how fast information gets spread around with technology and it's great that so many got to see the bird during the time it stayed; it lingered until 17 December. Even more amazing is that a bird like this showed up in such a place as this. It makes one wonder what else could be lurking in these neglected parts of the city where no one birds, or would even think of birding, for that matter.

I think we would all agree that it is moments like these that make birding so exciting. It also reinforces the fact that birds are extremely mobile and can literally show up anywhere, so it pays to keep your eyes peeled!

Rudy Badia, with Richard Aracil and Heydi Lopes, New York City.

A SWAINSON'S HAWK IN GREENE COUNTY

About 4 PM, 3 October 2009, I was stopped at a red light, about to make a turn onto the NYS Thruway (I-87) at the New Baltimore/Coxsackie Exit. As I was waiting, I noticed a brownish streaked bird foraging in the grassy strip at the side of the highway. My first reaction, I thought grouse or pheasant. But on second look, I saw it was a hawk, running in the knee-high grass along the shoulder, pouncing on some unseen prey. Things didn't add up to any hawk species I might have expected—even in this unusual circumstance. I snapped a few photos through the car window, just to be sure.

Fortunately, there were no cars behind me, or streaming down the highway. So I was able to pull out of the turn lane over to the shoulder where I could see the bird up close. I managed to get a few more photos, this time up close and through the open passenger window. The hawk flew up to a road sign, so I got

out and got a few more photos. I was still not sure what species I was looking at. It resembled a very heavily marked juvenile Red-shouldered or Broad-winged Hawk. But, the ingredients were not adding up right.

The hawk flew up to a more distant billboard; I took a few more pictures—to get a dorsal view of the bird and especially the tail. Then with the bird safely out of the harm's way of fast moving traffic, I went on my way.

I sent my son, Andy, a few of the photos and asked his opinion. Well, he happened to be on the road and was not able to see the pictures until Monday morning. His reply was that he believed it to be a juvenile Swainson's Hawk and sent me a few links to pictures of a similarly plumaged bird taken in Texas. Yup, there was a match. To be sure, I had considered Swainson's earlier, but none of the references I checked had illustrations of the plumage of the bird I had seen.

With that, I sent a note out on the internet on Monday evening, 5 October. Fortunately, I was able to relocate the bird on Tuesday, 6 October, and sent a note to Andy and others who posted in on the appropriate list-serves. The hawk remained remarkably faithful to the small stretch of highway within about half a mile in either direction. This turned out to be a very easy bird for birders to check out. It was just off the Interstate highway exit, and could often be "ticked" even before paying the tolls.

A number of birders, including myself, shared concerns for the safety of the hawk given its propensity to forage very close to the shoulder of this very busy fast speed roadway, and to fly dangerously low in front of oncoming traffic. Luckily, the hawk managed to not get run over by a fast moving truck or bus.

On several occasions, the Swainson's was seen to fly off, gaining altitude and soaring off to the southeast, becoming little more than a speck in the sky. Yet he/she returned after each of these lengthy absences, usually flying into the same roadside trees or onto the by now familiar billboard. Despite several favorable winds with which the bird might have joined several other hawks seen migrating by, the hawk stayed around for the next week, being seen daily until the afternoon of Wednesday, 14 October.

On Thursday, I searched the road shoulders and ditch just to be sure. Fortunately, I didn't find a hawk. So I think it is safe to assume the bird flew off and continued its journey south.

Richard Guthrie, New Baltimore.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASON—FALL 2009

Seymour (Sy) Schiff

603 Mead Terrace, South Hempstead, NY 11550

syschiff@optonline.net

In spite of the diversity of habitats in NYS, weather patterns usually affect the state in a rather consistent manner. In fall, that means storms from the northwest and lake effects, storms from the south moving up the coast with nor'easter effects, lots of snow in the higher elevations, snow cover and less open water. Not this year. Storms were coming in from the west. The early cold did not materialize and snow cover was minimal, if not absent. Waterfowl were late in moving south, and winter finches were almost non-existent.

September was warmer to the north and a bit cooler to the south, with a heavy deluge at the end throughout the state to catch up with the lack of early precipitation. The first part of October was wet everywhere, with a dryer second half and a late coastal storm. November was warm and surprisingly snow free throughout.

In general, the fall migration was a bust. There were almost no fronts that moved migrants through, and total numbers of all birds seen were abysmally low, at least downstate except for an extraordinary gull flight. Some editors hinted at this lack of birds. What was significant to me was that the total number of species found didn't diminish. Birders were looking for birds for various lists and found them; so no big deal and no complaints. We have more birders chasing fewer birds and still maintaining their lists. Let's hope this year was only an aberration.

No Region 4 report was available this season. Therefore, where I've outlined the distribution of some of the state's avifauna, keep in mind that a part of the south central portion of the state is not included.

In spite of the lack of movement of waterfowl that some Regional editors reported, all the geese and all but a few super rare ducks on the NYS list appeared in the state this season. Of interest was how numerous and widespread some of our scarcer species were. **Pink-footed Goose** appeared again in Region 10; White-fronted Goose in Regions 1, 3, and 5; Ross's Goose in Regions 2, 3, 6, and 7, plus Ross's x Snow hybrid in Region 1; **Barnacle Goose** in Regions 3 and 10; nominate Cackling Goose in Regions 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, and 10; and a possible "**Ridgway's**" **Cackling Goose** (*Branta hutchinsii minima*) in Region 10. Swans continue to expand their presence in the state, with Mute Swan appearing in Regions 1, 2, 3, 5 and 10; Tundra Swan in 1, 2, 5, 6, and 10; and Trumpeter Swan in 1, 2, 5, and 6. Among the rarer ducks, Eurasian Wigeon was found in Regions 3, 6, and 10, and Barrow's Goldeneye in Regions 2 and 8. Large numbers of Common Eiders appeared along the ocean in early November. Although the numbers were not huge at Montauk, it was noticeable how many appeared in numbers as far west as Brighton Beach in Brooklyn. Jones Inlet hosted an impressive 100, virtually all first year birds. Harlequin Ducks appeared only at their usual location at Pt. Lookout, Region 10.

One item of note was the report from Region 5 of diving ducks eating the invasive proliferating zebra mussels. It's good to hear some good coming from this nuisance.

Either pheasants and quail are fast disappearing in the state or are simply not being reported. Bobwhite was only reported from Region 10 and then only a few birds; Ring-necked Pheasants only from Regions 7 and 9; Spruce Grouse not at all; and Ruffed Grouse only in Regions 5, 7, 8, and 9. Wild Turkeys are just under-reported.

Pacific Loons were reported from Regions 2 and 3 and Eared Grebes from Regions 1 and 2. A Western Grebe appeared in the Hudson River, south of Piermont Pier, confirmed by sightings and photographs in Region 9. Another large grebe was found in Region 7, but this bird was identified only as a Western/Clark's Grebe.

Late Cattle Egrets were in Regions 1 and 10. A rarity was the second Region 1 sighting of a juvenile **White Ibis**, found at Tonawanda WMA in September and again, after a visit to a neighboring province, in October.

Black Vultures were reported from Regions 8 and 9 and Turkey Vultures from 1, 2, 5, 6, and 7. Eagles have become noticeably widespread. Bald Eagles were reported from Regions 1 and 5 through 10, and Golden Eagles were reported from Regions 2 and 5 through 10. For both species, this is virtually the entire state, a dramatic change from only a few years ago. An immature **Swainson's Hawk** was present in Greene Co. on 3-14 October. See Rich Guthrie's account of this spectacular find, Will Yandik's Region 8 Report, and Figure 1 on page 44. Two separate observers on two separate days observed a perched hawk each believed was a juvenile **Ferruginous Hawk**, a raptor not on the NYS list. The sightings occurred on 3 and 5 September near the Lake Erie shore in Dunkirk in Region 1. The actual ID requires verification at this time. An immature gray **Gyr Falcon** was seen by many birders and photographers on 25 October at West End, Jones Beach State Park (Fig. A, p. 41). It was photographed feeding on and then carrying off an adult Herring Gull. At first thought to be a Peregrine Falcon, the proper ID was confirmed subsequently from the numerous photographs taken.

While walking his dog in Caroline on 17 October, John Confer found a **Yellow Rail**. Subsequent searches failed to relocate the bird. A **Purple Gallinule** was found in Region 2 on 11 October. It succumbed two days later and is now interred in the collection at Cornell University.

Sandhill Cranes continue to expand their reach and this fall were noted in Regions 1, 2, 3, 5, and 10. American Avocets were found in Regions 1, 2, 3, and 10.

The shorebird highlight and the bird of the season for Region 2 was Andy Guthrie's **Long-billed Curlew** at Hamlin Beach. It was a Regional first and a bird not seen in the state since 1976. Hudsonian Godwits were found in Regions 2 and 9 and Marbled Godwit only in Region 10. Baird's Sandpiper was noted only in one report in Region 1 and two reports in Region 10, and Buff-breasted Sandpiper only in Regions 1 and 10. Long-billed Dowitchers were highlighted in a number of reports away from the coast. Region 5 had its first sighting in 11

years, and a single bird appeared in the Cocksackie Grasslands in Region 8. They appeared in Regions 1, 2, 3, 5, and 8 in addition to coastal 10.

On 27 September, Angus Wilson witnessed a remarkable flight of at least 88 Parasitic Jaegers off the coast of eastern Long Island. Also noted were a Northern Fulmar, several Cory's Shearwaters, a Greater Shearwater, and a Black-legged Kittiwake. During October he recorded several more impressive flights of seabirds, including good numbers of sea ducks, gulls, terns, jaegers, and another Northern Fulmar.

After the coastal storm of 21 November, thousands of gulls were reported flying way out over the ocean. Among the birds closer to shore, a flight of Black-legged Kittiwakes was first detected by Doug Futuyma at Robert Moses State Park. He alerted other observers up and down the coast, and a combined conservative estimate of 475 birds was made between Montauk Point and Fort Tilden. Small numbers of Black-legged Kittiwakes were observed lingering near shore to 26 November, when five were noted at Breezy Point. In recent years small numbers have been reported on the ocean, most often from Montauk. This season's numbers are truly impressive both as to quantity and distribution.

Of course, the Niagara Frontier is the place for unusual but now expected gulls. The gull species numbered 13 and included Black-legged Kittiwake, Sabine's, Black-headed, Little, California and Thayer's Gulls. A Franklin's Gull was reported from Region 2.

Eurasian Colored-Dove was found in Regions 2 and 9. This species continues to expand north. Single Snowy Owls in Region 2 and 9 were the only reports this fall. As with the finches, there was almost no movement of these northern birds.

Few Common Nighthawks were reported in most Regions and several editors commented on this, but 150 were reported in Harriman State Park on 3 September. A **Rufous Hummingbird** visited feeders in a yard on Staten Island in Region 10 for almost two months starting on 10 October.

Black-backed Woodpeckers were found in Regions 6 and 7, but Am. Three-toed Woodpecker was not reported.

An **Ash-throated Flycatcher** was discovered in a relatively unbuilt area of Queens, NYC, Region 10 (Fig. H, p. 44). An Orange-crowned Warbler, less obliging, frequented the same area. Western Kingbirds were only found in Region 10. A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was found and photographed in Savannah, in Region 2, on 24 October (Fig. F, p. 43). The next day, the bird was relocated and seen by many observers from early morning to last light.

The only positive Cave Swallow sightings were at Hamlin Beach on 9 November in Region 2, when 73 passed on that single day. Four distant Cliff/Cave Swallows were seen in Region 3, too far off to ID to species. In a gathering reminiscent of Tree Swallow congregations, Region 1 had a remarkable 1290 Northern Rough-winged Swallows off Niagara Falls SP on 7 October. Another large species concentration was 2650 Golden-crowned Kinglets noted at Hamlin Beach on 16 October.

Rarer warbler species included: a dull "Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler seen briefly in Ithaca, Region 3; Connecticut Warbler reported in

Region 3 (immature female), 5 (2 birds), 9, and 10 (8 birds in as many widely scattered locations); Orange-crowned Warblers reported in Regions 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10; and Yellow-breasted Chat in Regions 9 and 10.

Some of the sparrows more difficult to find in fall migration included: Clay-colored Sparrow in Regions 1, 2, 5, and 10; Lark Sparrow only in Region 10; Grasshopper Sparrow in Region 10; Henslow's Sparrow in Region 6; and Lapland Longspur in Regions 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, and 10. Also interesting finds were a single male Western Tanager, which paused at Jones Beach and was seen by two observers but did not stay; Blue Grosbeak only in Region 10; and Dickcissel in Regions 6, 9 and 10.

A Yellow-headed Blackbird in Region 10 was seen by a single observer and did not linger.

The fall/winter incursion of waxwings and finches was for all purposes non-existent. Ten Bohemian Waxwings at Paul Smiths College on 6 November was the only report for the species. Red Crossbill reports were: one bird seen in Region 2; a handful in Region 5; two in Region 6; and two locations in Region 8. From here on it's all downhill. White-winged Crossbills were reported in Region 3 and on one day in Region 6. Only Region 8 reported Common Redpolls. Single Evening Grosbeaks were noted in Regions 1 and 5 and at various locations in Region 7. Pine Grosbeaks were a no show.

Finally we come to the "Bird of the Season" Award. Although the **Long-billed Curlew** is a mega-rarity, it was only seen and photographed by a single experienced observer. I don't think that is enough for this call. In my opinion the distinction clearly belongs to the young **Swainson's Hawk**. It very cooperatively lingered in the centrally located Albany Region for over a week, affording close and prolonged viewing to a great array of NY and out-of state birders.



REGION 1—NIAGARA FRONTIER

Mike Morgante

59 Briar Hill Road, Orchard Park, NY 14127
morgm@roadrunner.com

It was a beautiful September and a nearly rain-free month until a lake effect rainstorm soaker on the 28th. The average temperature of 62.4° F was 0.9° above normal. Monthly precipitation at Buffalo-Niagara International Airport was 5.65", 1.81" above normal, with most of this occurring during the late rain event, which featured the greatest one-day precipitation since 1987 and was accompanied by a five foot seiche on Lake Erie. October was gloomy and wet with a warm finish. The average temperature was 48.6°, 2.1° below normal, and the monthly precipitation was 4.77", 1.58" above normal, with officially a trace of snow on the 15th and 16th. However, several inches fell in Southern Tier on those days. November was sunny and warmer than usual and, most surprisingly, snow-free for only the fifth time in the 126-year weather record. The average temperature was 44.0°, 3.8° above normal. The monthly precipitation was 2.94", 0.98" below normal, with only a trace of snow, 11.0" below normal. Weather information was obtained from National Weather Service monthly summaries at Buffalo-Niagara International Airport.

The peak numbers of migrant Canada Geese occurred later in the season than previously. **Cackling Goose** sightings were all in the vicinity of Iroquois NWR and adjacent WMAs, which is the largest staging area for the fall goose migration in the Region. There were eight reports of Snow Goose, including two sightings in September which should no longer be considered 'early'. A **Ross's x Snow Goose** hybrid at Chautauqua Lake in late November was nicely documented by Jim Pawlicki. A group of eight **Greater White-fronted Geese** found by Chris Newton at Iroquois NWR lingered for nearly a week, allowing several observers to see this record Regional fall maximum count. Another group of six was found at Waterport in late November by Mickey Scillingo. There were three reports of **Brant** along Lake Erie, where they are much less frequent than along Lake Ontario in fall. A **Barnacle Goose** identified by Bill Watson on the pier at Olcott had a leg band and was likely a bird that escaped from the Gooseneck Hill Wildlife Sanctuary aviary during the late summer flooding; the band was similar to theirs. Individual Trumpeter Swans found at Iroquois NWR and nearby Oak Orchard WMA were thought to be the same bird. Notable duck counts from the fall season included an estimated 550 Wood Ducks coming in to Tonawanda WMA prior to dusk and 2,250 Bufflehead in Buffalo Harbor in mid-November, which is their peak staging time on the Niagara River during migration.

Ken Roblee of the NYSDEC provided some welcome news that, for the first time in ten years, type E botulism mortality among piscivorous waterbirds was nearly non-existent on Lake Erie and Lake Ontario. **Eared Grebes** were present at Batavia WWTP through 12 November, with a maximum of five birds.

There was one **Northern Gannet**: a juvenile flying west over Lake Ontario in Wilson. A Regional maximum count of 1,625 Double-crested Cormorants occurred at Buffalo Harbor during the strong storm on 28 September.

A drained impoundment along Griswold Street at Tonawanda WMA provided excellent habitat for shorebirds through October. Birders regularly checked this location, primarily to look for **Long-billed Dowitchers** that were sighted frequently between 25 September and 16 October, with a maximum of six found by David Wheeler on 11 October. Kyle Horton found two Long-billed Dowitchers at Darien Lakes SP in late November, representing the latest documented in the Region. The increase in **American Avocet** sightings in summer and fall continued, with a group of five at Beaver Island SP on 27 September and two at Dunkirk Harbor on 28 September. The strong southwesterly winds around those dates may have factored in their presence in the Region. Other shorebird highlights included a **Western Sandpiper** at Dunkirk Harbor, two reports of **Red-necked Phalaropes**, and a **Red Phalarope**. Two of three phalarope reports were associated with the late September storm.

There were six **Parasitic Jaegers** identified along the Great Lakes. A juvenile **Sabine's Gull** found at Niagara Falls on Halloween was observed the next day but not again. Two juvenile **Black-legged Kittiwakes** were much more accommodating. Originally found by David Wheeler on Lake Ontario at Fort Niagara SP on 5 September, many observers saw them through 9 September. **California Gull** was again present on the Niagara River, with at least two birds this fall. An adult at Niagara Falls SP on 7 October was the second earliest ever. A third-winter bird was found on 17 October, and another or possibly the same bird was sighted several times in late November at the Niagara Power Project. This makes 17 out of the last 18 years that at least one California Gull has been documented on the Niagara River. An adult **Black-headed Gull** was found between Niagara Falls and the Niagara Power Project on at least three occasions in the 15-24 November period. "Nelson's Gull" (Glaucous x Herring hybrid) was spotted on several occasions, which is typical for this season on the Niagara River. Birders grappled with probable Herring x Lesser Black-backed and Herring x Great Black-backed hybrids as well.

Snowy and Short-eared Owls went unreported this fall. David Junkin banded 37 **Northern Saw-whet Owls** at his banding station in Wethersfield, with a maximum of eight on 17 October. **Common Nighthawks** were not widespread, with only eight reports and a maximum count of 21. There were only three reports of Red-headed Woodpecker, all from September. A remarkable 1,290 Northern Rough-winged Swallows congregated off Niagara Falls SP on 7 October. Despite several birders searching along Lake Ontario, no Cave Swallows were found in early November as occurred in neighboring Region 2.

The evening of 23 September and morning of 24 September were notable for the large number of nocturnal flight calls heard and migrant passerines observed. The warmth in early November may have contributed to record late Regional reports of Indigo Bunting and Eastern Wood-Pewee. Northern Shrikes occurred in decent numbers. Following the bonanza of finches last year, birders

couldn't be too disappointed in their near absence this fall. There were a handful of Pine Siskin reports, all in single digits, plus a single **Evening Grosbeak** visiting a feeder in Colden.

The highlight of the fall season was undoubtedly the discovery of a juvenile **White Ibis** coming to roost at dusk with Great Egrets at Tonawanda WMA. Mark Pearce made the discovery on the evening of 20 September, and many birders lined up to wait and watch, most successfully, in the following days. The last sighting was on 29 September. On 3 October, a juvenile White Ibis was found in Whitby, Ontario, 35 miles north of Tonawanda WMA. Then on 21 October, Bill Watson was surprised to see presumably the same juvenile White Ibis come in to roost at the same location at Tonawanda WMA. There were several sightings over the next 1-2 days but the ibis was not seen after that. There had only been one previous sighting in the Region.

Details were submitted by two observers who made separate observations of a bird they identified as a juvenile **Ferruginous Hawk**. The sightings occurred on 3-5 September near the Lake Erie shore in Dunkirk. All sightings were of a perched bird. Both reports pointed to this species and detailed several identifying field marks, including feathered legs, large size, and some distinctive plumage characteristics. However, some other features were not observed or described. Given that this species has not been accepted for the New York State List, it is included here under the category of 'possible' and awaits NYSARC review. Even if these reports do not result in the first accepted Ferruginous Hawk for New York, birders should be aware of the late summer movements of raptors, mostly juveniles, in seemingly 'reverse migration' along the shorelines of the Great Lakes. Of linked interest to this sighting, a Swainson's Hawk was reported by experienced birders along the Lake Ontario shoreline in Region 2 on 29 August just a few days prior to these sightings, thereby providing an association to possible movements of juvenile western raptor species into New York in the same time period.

The 74th annual BOS October Count was held on the 11th and compiled by Mike Hamilton. The weather featured high pressure, cloudy skies, and the passage of a cold front with strong northwest winds. The count recorded 158 species with one first record for the count, Prairie Warbler; 5 record high counts: three Cackling Goose, 38 Mute Swan, 30 Bald Eagle, six Long-billed Dowitcher, and five Lesser Black-backed Gull; and one record low count, 45 American Black Duck.

Other notable sightings not previously mentioned include **Cattle Egret** and **Clay-colored Sparrow**.

CONTRIBUTORS

Tim Baird, Doug Beattie, Jim Berry, Elizabeth Brooks, Brad Carlson, Gary Chapin, Dick Christensen, Sylvia Clarke, Willie D'Anna, Gail Dieffendorf, Bruce DiLabio, Dean DiTommaso, Kurt Fox, Joanne Goetz, David Gordon, Carol Hardenburg, Paul Hess, Kyle Horton, David Junkin, Jim Kimball (JKi), Jennifer Kurtzdorfer (JKu), Jim & Karen Landau (J&KL), Jerry Lazarczyk, Joe

Mitchell, Dave Neveu, Chris Newton, Jim Pawlicki (JPa), Jacalyn Perry (JPe), Mark Pearce, Betsy Potter, Jeff Reed, Don Roberson, Richard Salembier, Marty Sanden (MSa), Mickey Scillingo (MSc), Debbie Sharon (DeS), Dominic Sherony (DoS), Jeanne Skelly, William Watson, David Wheeler, Peter Yoerg, Mike Zebehazy.

ABBREVIATIONS

AlSP – Allegany SP CATT; AmSP – Amherst SP ERIE; BeSP – Beaver I SP ERIE; BOSOC – Buffalo Ornithological Society 11 Oct Count; BuSP – Buckhorn I SP ERIE; BWWTWP – Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant GENE; ChauL – Chautauqua L CHAU; DH – Dunkirk Harbor CHAU; FMCSP – Four Mile Creek SP NIAG; FNSP – Fort Niagara SP NIAG; GHSP – Golden Hill SP NIAG; INWR – Iroquois NWR GENE/ORLE; NF – Niagara Falls NIAG; NFSP – Niagara Falls SP NIAG; NPP – Niagara Power Project on Niagara R NIAG; NR – Niagara R ERIE/NIAG; OOWMA – Oak Orchard WMA GENE/ORLE; PB – Pt Breeze ORLE; PG – Pt Graciot CHAU; Tifft NP – Tifft Nature Preserve, Buffalo ERIE; TWMA – Tonawanda WMA GENE/NIAG; WoBSP – Woodlawn Beach SP ERIE.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

G. White-fronted Goose: 8, 1 INWR 21-26 Oct, 6 Nov (CN, PY), eight a Reg record high for fall; 6 Waterport ORLE 21 Nov (MSc).
Snow Goose: arr 6 Buffalo ERIE 17 Sep (GD); Shelby ORLE 26 Sep (BC, JS, GC); 2 BOSOC; 2 BWWTWP 18 Oct; Somerset NIAG 21 Oct; 2 OOWMA 21 Oct; 6, 5 Oakfield GENE 28 Oct, 8 Nov; 1, 1 Dayton CATT 13, 28 Nov.
Ross's x Snow Goose: ChauL 29 Nov (JP!, photo), bill showed classic field marks of hybrid.
Cackling Goose: arr 8 TWMA 6 Oct (WD); 2 BOSOC; 5, 1, 1 INWR 21 Oct, 6, 14 Nov (CN); 3 Oakfield GENE 8 Nov (KF).
Brant: arr Buffalo Harbor ERIE 13-26 Oct (KH, mob); max 140 Somerset NIAG 24 Oct (WD); Sturgeon Pt ERIE 24 Oct (DW, JPa); DH 26 Nov (JL, JG); only reports.
Mute Swan: 38 BOSOC, including areas in Ontario; 3 Olcott NIAG 25 Oct; 3 Lewiston NR 21 Nov; only reports.
Trumpeter Swan: INWR 12 Oct (JPa!); OOWMA 21 Oct (JPa!); observer considered it to be same bird.
Tundra Swan: arr 15 Wilson NIAG 1 Nov; 22, 55 BeSP 7, 20 Nov; 13 OOWMA 14 Nov; max 131 ChauL 29 Nov (JPa); 2 Attica WYOM 30 Nov; only reports.
Wood Duck: 45 Orchard Park ERIE 19 Sep; max 550 TWMA 25 Oct (KF), coming in to

roost at dusk, ties Reg record count; West Seneca ERIE thru 30 Nov.

Gadwall: 20 Alexander GENE 27 Oct; max 63 INWR 28 Oct; 40, 38 BWWTWP 31 Oct, 22 Nov; 34 Tifft NP 8 Nov.

Am. Wigeon: max 400 INWR 13 Oct (WW, JL).

Am. Black Duck: max 40 BWWTWP 8 Nov; 20 Attica WYOM 30 Nov.

Blue-winged Teal: last OOWMA 21 Oct.

N. Shoveler: 2 WoBSP 14 Sep; max 175 BWWTWP 31 Oct (KF).

N. Pintail: max 44 TWMA 21 Oct.

Green-winged Teal: max 52 BWWTWP 28 Oct.

Canvasback: arr 18 BOSOC.

Redhead: arr 7 BOSOC; 3 BWWTWP 22 Nov; Carlton ORLE 22 Nov; only reports.

Ring-necked Duck: arr BWWTWP 2 Oct; max 275 INWR 28 Oct (WW).

Greater Scaup: arr 5 Buffalo NR 29 Sep.

Lesser Scaup: BWWTWP 3 Sep; arr Buffalo NR 29 Sep; max 40 BWWTWP 31 Oct.

Surf Scoter: arr 2 FNSP 5 Sep (WD, WW), early; 3 Buffalo NR 29 Sep; 2 BOSOC; max 50 Somerset NIAG 24 Oct; 8, 1 Sturgeon Pt ERIE, DH 24 Oct (DW); BWWTWP 22 Nov (WW).

White-winged Scoter: 5 FNSP 5 Sep; 2, 1 Hamburg ERIE, DH 24 Oct, much less frequent on L Erie compared w. L Ontario.

Black Scoter: arr Wilson NIAG 5 Oct; 7 BOSOC; 6 Somerset NIAG 24 Oct; 8, 3

Hamburg ERIE, Sturgeon Pt ERIE 24 Oct; max 12 Wilson NIAG 1 Nov; 4 DH 24 Nov.

Long-tailed Duck: arr Buffalo NR 29 Sep; only inland reports were INWR 18 Oct; Attica WYOM 30 Nov.

Bufflehead: BWWT 3, 27 Sep, from summer; 240 Sheridan CHAU 11 Nov; max 2250 Buffalo Harbor ERIE 13 Nov (DG); 574 ChauL 29 Nov (JPa).

Com. Goldeneye: arr BOSOC; 76 ChauL 29 Nov.

Hooded Merganser: max 133 Dayton CATT 13 Nov; 116 ChauL 29 Nov; 64 DH 30 Nov.

Com. Merganser: 53 DH 11 Sep; 47 Sheridan CHAU 19 Sep; 83 BWWT 2 Oct; max 182 Dayton CATT 17 Nov.

Red-breasted Merganser: arr 5 Wilson NIAG 5 Oct.

Ruddy Duck: 20, 317, 446 BWWT 3 Sep, 28 Oct, 22 Nov; 7 Attica WYOM 7 Nov; 5 Carlton Hill MUA GENE 13 Nov; max 941 ChauL 29 Nov (JPa).

Red-throated Loon: arr FNSP 18 Oct; Sturgeon Pt ERIE 24 Oct; max 136 Wilson NIAG 7 Nov (WD); BWWT 22 Nov (WW); ChauL 29 Nov.

Com. Loon: 7 Olcott 24 Sep; 60 Wilson NIAG 5 Oct; max 67 Somerset NIAG 24 Oct; 35 Sturgeon Pt ERIE 24 Oct; botulism mortality on L Erie nearly non-existent, *intro*.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 30, 34 TWMA 25 Sep, 21 Oct; 12 ChauL 29 Nov.

Horned Grebe: arr Buffalo NR 29 Sep; 75 Silver Creek CHAU 21 Oct; max 102 Sturgeon Pt ERIE 24 Oct (DW).

Red-necked Grebe: arr 2 Wilson NIAG 12 Oct; max 13 Wilson NIAG 1 Nov (WD, DD); 2 Olcott NIAG 15 Nov; only reports.

EARED GREBE: 2-5 BWWT thru 12 Nov (mob), annual at this location.

N. GANNET: Wilson NIAG 1 Nov (WD), nearly annual in fall now.

Double-crested Cormorant: 863, 698 BuSP 3 Sep, 1 Oct (WW); max 1625 Buffalo ERIE 28 Sep (WW), max count influenced by strong winds; Dayton CATT 21 Nov; BWWT 27 Nov.

Am. Bittern: Wales ERIE 2 Oct (DC); last INWR 13 Oct; only reports.

Great Egret: max 102, 126 TWMA 25 Sep, 3 Oct (WW); 24 BWWT 26 Sep; 22 Strawberry I NR 5 Oct; last BeSP 21 Nov (DeS).

CATTLE EGRET: Wilson NIAG 3-10 Nov (JPc), brought to rehabilitator.

Green Heron: last 4 BOSOC.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 11 TWMA 25 Sep (RS); last 5 BOSOC.

WHITE IBIS: juv TWMA 20-29 Sep (MP!, mob); 21-22 Oct TWMA (WW, JM); thought to be same bird; 2nd Reg report.

Turkey Vulture: max 125 Lewiston NR 10 Oct (DW); 30 Warsaw WYOM 7 Nov (JKi); 2 NF 11 Nov.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: last 3 BOSOC.

Bald Eagle: reported from numerous locations; 30 BOSOC; max 4 Sheridan CHAU 3, 12 Sep.

N. Goshawk: AISP 1 Nov (JR), only report.

Red-shouldered Hawk: Busti CHAU 12 Sep; 9 BOSOC; 2 Ashford CATT 4 Nov; Orchard Park ERIE 6, 23 Nov; only reports.

Broad-winged Hawk: 4 rep Sep; last ALLE BOSOC.

possible FERRUGINOUS HAWK: juv Dunkirk CHAU 3-5 Sep (MSa, SC), details to NYSARC, *intro*.

Rough-legged Hawk: arr BOSOC; only 3 other reports.

Merlin: WoBSP 19 Sep; BOSOC; INWR 21 Oct; Buffalo ERIE 29 Oct; AISP 1 Nov; only reports.

Peregrine Falcon: reported from 9 loc.

Sora: last Alexander GENE 27 Oct (DB!), late.

Com. Moorhen: last OOWMA 2 Oct.

Am. Coot: 200 TWMA 28 Oct; max 574 ChauL 29 Nov (JPa).

Sandhill Crane: 1, 1 Dayton CATT BOSOC, 13 Nov (JM, JPa; DN), fall reports still rare.

Black-bellied Plover: last DH 24 Oct.

Am. Golden-Plover: 25 Alabama GENE 12 Sep (DW); DH 12 Sep; 8 Shelby ORLE 26 Sep; last Buffalo ERIE 20 Oct.

Semipalmated Plover: last 3 Alexander GENE 4 Oct.

Killdeer: last 10 Darien GENE 25 Nov.

AM. AVOCET: 5 BeSP 27 Sep (DeS); 2 DH 28 Sep (JG); becoming a regular in summer & fall.

Spotted Sandpiper: last West Seneca ERIE 5 Oct.

Solitary Sandpiper: last Wilson NIAG 4 Oct.

Gr. Yellowlegs: last TWMA 8 Nov.

Lesser Yellowlegs: last BWWT 31 Oct.

Ruddy Turnstone: 2, 1 DH 12 Sep, 14 Oct; max 7 Alexander GENE 4 Oct (DB), rare inland.

Sanderling: max 21 Buffalo ERIE 5 Oct.

WESTERN SANDPIPER: DH 10 Sep (DW), rare.

Least Sandpiper: last 2 TWMA 26 Oct (WW, JPa), late.

White-rumped Sandpiper: BWWT 2 Oct (WW), only report.

Baird's Sandpiper: DH 10-11 Sep (DW, JG), only report.

Pectoral Sandpiper: last TWMA 26 Oct.

Dunlin: max 19 Angola ERIE 24 Oct.

Stilt Sandpiper: 1-3 TWMA 25 Sep - 11 Oct; only reports.

Short-billed Dowitcher: no reports.

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER: 1-6 TWMA 25 Sep - 16 Oct (mob); 2 Darien Lakes SP GENE 24-26 Nov (KH, JM, CN), record late.

Wilson's Snipe: max 5 Wilson NIAG 18 Oct.

Am. Woodcock: 9 BOSOC; last Buffalo ERIE 27 Oct, found dead under HSBC tower.

Red-necked Phalarope: FNSP 12 Sep (DW); 2 Tift NP 29 Sep (JKu); only reports.

Red Phalarope: LaSalle P Buffalo ERIE 28 Sep (KF), during strong wind event; only report.

Black-legged Kittiwake: 2 juv FNSP 5-9 Sep (DW, mob); early.

Sabine's Gull: juv NF 31 Oct - 1 Nov (BP, WD); only report.

Bonaparte's Gull: INWR 21 Oct; BWWT 8 Nov; max 6000 FNSP 28 Nov (BD); 850 Barcelona CHAU 29 Nov.

BLACK-HEADED GULL: NF 15 Nov (DW); NPP 16 Nov (WW); NF 24 Nov (BC, DoS); all possibly same bird.

Little Gull: max 4, 3 NF 22 Sep, 31 Oct; 2 NF BOSOC; Silver Creek CHAU 21 Oct; Sturgeon Pt ERIE 24 Oct; 2 Lewiston NR 31 Oct; 2 Wilson NIAG 11 Nov; Barcelona CHAU 29 Nov.

CALIFORNIA GULL: ad NF 7 Oct (JPa!, WW!, NYSARC), 2nd earliest report; 3rd-winter NPP 17 Oct (JM); ad NFSP 7 Nov (CN); ad NPP 15 Nov (DW); 3rd-winter Lewiston NR 21, 26, 28 Nov (WD!, WW!, NYSARC).

Thayer's Gull: sev undocumented rep from NPP and NF.

Iceland Gull: arr NF 15 Nov; max 6 NPP 28 Nov.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: arr NFSP 24 Sep; 5 BOSOC; 2 PB 17 Oct; DH 21 Oct; max 4, 5 NFSP 22 Oct, 29 Nov; FMCSP 6 Nov.

Glaucous Gull: arr 2 NF, 1 Whirlpool NIAG 28 Nov.

G. Black-backed Gull: max 150 DH 12 Nov.

Caspian Tern: last 3 Buffalo ERIE 12 Oct.

Com. Tern: max 30 FNSP 5 Sep; 1, 1 Buffalo ERIE 28 Sep, 7 Oct; NR BOSOC; Sturgeon Pt ERIE 24 Oct; only reports.

Forster's Tern: 2 DH 11 Sep (DN); last DH 5, 7 Nov (DN).

Black Tern: last FNSP 5 Sep.

Parasitic Jaeger: arr 2, 1 FNSP 5, 12 Sep (DW); Buffalo ERIE 28 Sep (JPa); Hamburg

ERIE 28 Sep (DW); 1, 1 Wilson NIAG 29 Sep, 5 Oct (WD).

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 2 INWR 26 Sep (BC, JS, GC), only report.

Black-billed Cuckoo: Tift NP 4 Sep (DeS); Wilson NIAG 26 Sep (WD); last BeSP 30 Sep (DeS).

Snowy Owl: no reports.

Short-eared Owl: no reports.

N. Saw-whet Owl: 37 banded Wethersfield WYOM 10 Oct - 10 Nov (DJ), max 8 on 17 Oct.

Com. Nighthawk: rep from eight loc thru 20 Sep; max 21 Williamsville ERIE 3 Sep.

Chimney Swift: last 6 BOSOC.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last 2 BOSOC.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 2 GHSP 6 Sep; 2 PG 13 Sep; Ashford CATT 30 Sep; only reports.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr 2 Orchard Park ERIE 13 Sep.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Tift NP 3-5 Sep (CN), only report.

E. Wood-Pewee: 6 BOSOC; last AISP 1 Nov (TB!), Reg record late.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: AmSP 3 Sep; Williamsville ERIE 11 Sep; last Buffalo ERIE 30 Sep (PY).

Willow Flycatcher: last Busti CHAU 6 Sep (JB).

Least Flycatcher: last Wilson NIAG 15 Sep.

E. Phoebe: last West Seneca ERIE 30 Oct.

Gr. Crested Flycatcher: last Williamsville ERIE 11 Sep.

E. Kingbird: last GHSP 6 Sep.

N. Shrike: arr TWMA 21 Oct; 14 other reports.

Blue-headed Vireo: arr GHSP 20 Sep.

Warbling Vireo: last Wilson NIAG 24 Sep.

Philadelphia Vireo: 8 rep Sep.

Red-eyed Vireo: last BeSP 24 Oct.

Com. Raven: Arcade WYOM 9 Sep; 2

Alexander GENE 16 Nov; only locations away from ALLE, CATT.

Horned Lark: max 150 Shelby ORLE 26 Sep (BC).

Purple Martin: last Williamsville ERIE 14 Sep.

Tree Swallow: max 95 BWWT 2 Oct.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: max 1290 NFSP 7 Oct (JPa, WW); last 95 BOSOC.

Bank Swallow: last 4 TWMA 27 Sep.

Cliff Swallow: last TWMA 26 Sep (JPa!), late.
Barn Swallow: last 22 BOSOC.
Carolina Wren: 14 BOSOC, low count for recent years.
House Wren: last 4 BOSOC.
Winter Wren: arr Wilson NIAG 9 Sep.
Marsh Wren: last 2 AmSP 8, 12 Oct (PY), migr; INWR 12 Oct.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr 5 Olcott NIAG 24 Sep.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr 2 Tift NP 12 Sep; Tift NP 8 Nov; 2 Bethany GENE 25 Nov.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: last Alden ERIE 1 Oct.
Veery: 55 Tonawanda ERIE 12 Sep (PH), nocturnal migrants; last, fresh roadkill found Carlton Hill MUA WYOM 11 Oct (KF).
Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr Tonawanda ERIE, Williamsville ERIE 13 Sep; last BOSOC.
Swainson's Thrush: 2 AISP 5 Sep (TB); 29, 31 Tonawanda ERIE 12, 15 Sep (PH), nocturnal calls; last WoBSP 24 Oct (JPa, DW), late.
Hermit Thrush: arr Williamsville ERIE 24 Sep.
Wood Thrush: last 2 Alfred ALLE 6 Sep.
Gray Catbird: GHSP 15 Nov; only report beyond Oct.
N. Mockingbird: Alexander GENE 29 Oct, 12 Nov; Tift NP 8, 10 Nov; Bethany GENE 26 Nov; less common in these loc.
Brown Thrasher: Williamsville ERIE 12 Sep; Ashford CATT 23 Sep, 9 Oct; 3 BOSOC; Alfred ALLE 3 Nov (EB); last Tift NP 8 Nov (WW), late.
Am. Pipit: arr DH 11 Sep; 50 Shelby ORLE 26 Sep; 50 Alexander GENE 6 Oct.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: last AISP 5 Sep.
Tennessee Warbler: last Wilson NIAG 29 Sep.
Orange-crowned Warbler: arr Tift NP 12 Sep; 5 BOSOC; last Tift NP 18 Oct; six other reports.
Nashville Warbler: last Tift NP 17 Oct.
N. Parula: last NFSP 5 Oct.
Yellow Warbler: last DH 11 Sep.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: last Williamsville ERIE 30 Sep.
Magnolia Warbler: last 3 BOSOC.
Cape May Warbler: arr Williamsville ERIE 9 Sep; 2 AISP 25 Sep (TB); only reports.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: last NFSP 5 Oct.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 50 Orchard Park ERIE 30 Sep (MZ); 4 NFSP 8 Nov; 2 BuSP 9 Nov; Tift NP 10 Nov; GHSP 13 Nov.
Black-throated Green Warbler: last 5 BOSOC.
Pine Warbler: last OOWMA 4 Oct.
Prairie Warbler: TWMA BOSOC (DR!), late; only report.
Palm Warbler (*D.p. palmarum*): arr LBSP, Watts Flats 13 Sep; last 17 BOSOC.
Bay-breasted Warbler: last Williamsville ERIE 30 Sep.
Blackpoll Warbler: last Wilson NIAG 3 Oct.
Black-and-white Warbler: last BOSOC.
Am. Redstart: last 2 BOSOC.
Ovenbird: last BeSP 30 Sep.
N. Waterthrush: last Williamsville ERIE 1-3 Oct (RS).
Mourning Warbler: last AISP 5 Sep.
Com. Yellowthroat: last 4 BOSOC.
Hooded Warbler: INWR 26 Sep; last Fredonia CHAU 25 Oct (CH), late.
Wilson's Warbler: last BOSOC.
Canada Warbler: last Wilson NIAG 5 Sep.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr 3 BOSOC.
Chipping Sparrow: last 2 Williamsville ERIE 28 Oct.
CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: Williamsville ERIE 11 Sep (RS), rare in fall.
Field Sparrow: last Ashford CATT 21 Oct.
Vesper Sparrow: BOSOC, only report.
Savannah Sparrow: last 2 INWR 21 Oct.
Grasshopper Sparrow: last 2 Tillman Rd WMA ERIE 4 Sep (DG).
Fox Sparrow: arr 2 AmSP 8 Oct; max 12 AISP 21 Oct (TB); last 2 Colden ERIE 2 Nov thru (J&KL).
Lincoln's Sparrow: arr 4 Amherst ERIE 15 Sep; last Tift NP 17 Oct.
White-throated Sparrow: arr Tift NP 5 Sep.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr Wilson NIAG 24 Sep.
Lapland Longspur: arr 1, 1 Porter NIAG 16 Oct, 4 Nov; 3 Shelby ORLE 6 Nov; Wilson NIAG 8 Nov; only reports.
Snow Bunting: arr 7 Sturgeon Pt ERIE 24 Oct; max 30 Shelby ORLE 6 Nov.
Scarlet Tanager: last 2 ChauL 12 Sep.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last Holland ERIE 1 Oct.
Indigo Bunting: Amherst ERIE 1 Oct; last Tift NP 8 Nov (WW), Reg record late.
Bobolink: no reports.
E. Meadowlark: max 29 Knox Farm SP ERIE 5 Oct (MZ); last AISP 1 Nov.

Rusty Blackbird: arr 2 TWMA 25 Sep; 6 TWMA 6 Nov, only report beyond Oct.
Baltimore Oriole: last Grand Island ERIE 7 Sep.
Purple Finch: 41 BOSOC; not widespread.
Pine Siskin: 2 Eden ERIE 3 Sep; arr Alexander GENE 6 Oct; 2, 1 N Tonawanda NIAG 14 Oct, 21 Nov; 2 BOSOC; Holland

ERIE 2 Nov; 7 Wilson NIAG 11 Nov; 4 GHSP 13 Nov.
Evening Grosbeak: Colden ERIE 4 Nov (K&JL), only report.

EXOTIC

Barnacle Goose: Olcott NIAG 24 Sep (WW), leg band, escape from Gooseneck Hill Sanctuary CATT.

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REGION 2—GENESEE

Kevin C. Griffith

61 Grandview Lane, Rochester, NY 14612
ckgrif@frontiernet.net

September started off with three weeks of pleasant late summer weather. Warm days and cool nights persisted through the 20th. It was mainly sunny, with 74% of the possible sunshine as compared to the normal 57%. Even though the last part of the month was cloudy and rainy, we still topped that normal average with 59%. The average temperature was 60.7°F, 0.5° below normal. The total rainfall was 2.03" compared to the norm of 3.45". There was little measurable precipitation through the 25th of the month. A warm front brought heavy rains on the 26th through the 27th, then some lake effect rain kicked in on the 28th. The 29th and 30th were cool and cloudy with temperatures more like November. These late month conditions produced some good bird reports. October was cool and cloudy. The first 19 days of the month saw below average temperatures, while the remainder of the month was at or above normal. The mean for the month was 2.2° below normal at 48.2°. The first 19 days also saw periods of light rain and generally overcast skies. The heaviest rainfall was later in the month on the 27th when 1" was recorded. The first snowfall of the season occurred at some of the higher elevations, but not at the official airport location. The Region experienced only 25% of possible sunshine vs. a 50% norm. November was generally quiet and sunny. The average temperature of 41.9° was 2° above normal. The first half of the month saw below normal temperatures, while the second half was above normal. It was the 34th warmest November in 139 years of records. Precipitation totaled 1.13", 1.71" below normal. There was no measurable snowfall, making it only the fourth November in 126 years with a trace or less. 237 consecutive days with only a trace or less of snowfall is the third longest stretch recorded for our area. Winds were light, with a mean of 5.8 mph vs. a norm of 10.9 mph. Possible sunshine was 41% vs. a norm of 29%.

For the most part it was quite a lackluster fall migration, but still there were some highlights. The waterfowl picture in general was not great; one observer used the word "pathetic." There was an early Brant report, and

Cackling Goose reports increased into October though only recorded as singles or twos, quite different from last year's large influx. Trumpeter Swans continued to be reported in the double digits in Savannah. Puddle duck numbers were low, though there was a good Northern Pintail flight on 25 September and a good Green-winged Teal total on the 26th. Divers too were low, with particularly small numbers of Redhead and Canvasback. There also was no significant flight and no subsequent rafts of Greater Scaup on Lake Ontario. The only real waterfowl highlights were the Ross's Goose and Barrow's Goldeneye seen in Orleans County. A **Pacific Loon** discovered by Andy Guthrie at Hamlin Beach on 24 October lingered long enough to be seen by others. The loon flight in general was poor. Once again this fall there were very good counts of Red-necked Grebe, on Lake Ontario in late November, a new trend for the fall migration. On 15 November many were heard calling from out in a messy fog over the lake from Hamlin Beach west to Point Breeze. 96 were counted over that stretch in spite of the poor visibility. With no fog to the east, Mike Tetlow tallied 124 off Irondequoit Bay and several more checking spots east to Bear Creek in Wayne County for a total of 128 in that part of the east lakeshore, from which we have few large counts. Another good find was an **Eared Grebe** photographed at the south end of Irondequoit Bay by Charles Goulet on 5 October. Two **Great Cormorants** were spotted passing the lakewatch at Hamlin Beach on 11 September. The only Northern Gannet report of the season was an immature passing Hamlin Beach on 1 November, subsequently seen on the same morning passing near Wilson 45 miles to our west. The only noteworthy reports among the herons and egrets were of late Great Egrets and a couple of November Black-crowned Night-Herons.

It was a generally slow season for raptors. Thirty plus Turkey Vultures again gathered in November at a site in the Town of Rush where they have wintered for several years, and a similar number was seen moving up the Wyoming Valley near the village of Warsaw, Wyoming County. Rough-legged Hawks were good early, but numbers dropped off as the season progressed. The **Golden Eagle** seen by Jessie Barry and Chris Wood is a good find here by late October. Merlin and Peregrine Falcon were reported in reduced numbers this fall. Sandhill Cranes continued to be reported in Savannah through the season, with a max of 16 on the 29th of November. The **Purple Gallinule** found by Pat Martin at Mendon Ponds on 11 October was relocated by Brad Carlson on the 13th just as it expired and is now housed in the collection at Cornell.

The shorebird highlight and local bird of the season was a **Long-billed Curlew** photographed by Andy Guthrie as it passed Hamlin Beach on 12 September. It was a Regional first. An **American Avocet** at the south end of Irondequoit Bay, found by Tom Nash on 28 October and seen by many on that and the next day, was another in a series of sightings of this species in the upstate area this summer and fall. **14 Willets** observed by William Symonds at Hamlin Beach on 6 September was a Regional record high. Dave Tetlow's Stilt Sandpiper at the East Spit of Braddock Bay on 18 November was record late for the Region. Other late shorebirds included Ruddy Turnstone and Sanderling in November. The only two reports for Black-legged Kittiwake for the season were

two record early on 9 September and another on 14 September. Bonaparte's Gull numbers were way down. There was only a single Little Gull reported for the season, and none seen passing the lakewatch. Franklin's Gull at Hamlin Beach on 30 September is a rarity in the Region. There was only one Pomarine Jaeger sighting on 25 September and ten Parasitic Jaegers for the season.

Eurasian Collared-Doves continued to be viewed in Parma and Hamlin throughout the season with a maximum of three. A single Snowy Owl, banded in Hamlin late in November, was the only report for this species. Common Nighthawk totals continued to be low, but a fall Whip-poor-will found by Mike Tetlow on 11 September was a surprise. The usual Chimney Swift congregation gathered in Greiggsville and continued until mid October, with a maximum this fall of 1000+ on 12 September. A Ruby-throated Hummingbird visiting a feeder for five days towards the end of October was very late.

The passerine migration was quiet with a few notable exceptions. A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** in Savannah on 24-25 October was seen and photographed by many (Fig. F, p. 43). Doug Racine discovered the bird and word was spread quickly. Northern Shrikes peaked early and were more difficult to locate towards the end of the season. A **Fish Crow** in Greece on 27 November was our latest fall record. Common Raven reports continued scattered across the Region. A late Northern Rough-winged Swallow was spotted at Hamlin Beach on 9 November just before the first of what would total to 73 **Cave Swallows** that day. These turned out to be the only sightings for the latter species here this fall. Winter Wrens were a tad early this year, with decent numbers reported. **2650 Golden-crowned Kinglets** at Hamlin Beach on 16 October was by far a State high count. The thrush migration was weak this season, the only highlight being the Bicknell's Thrush reports from Manitou, Hamlin, and Island Cottage Woods in October. The former report was a banded bird at the Braddock Bay Bird Observatory. The latter reports were individuals identified by call.

There was not much to report on the warbler flight this fall. Numbers were generally low. Orange-crowned Warblers were well reported, and a female Black-throated Blue Warbler visiting Gerry Leubner's feeder in Irondequoit in late November was a surprise. Clay-colored Sparrow was found among other migrant sparrows at the Beatty Point sparrow hotspot. The only **Nelson's Sparrows** of the season were at least five individuals at the Marten Tract over an extended period and another photographed on Van Dyne Spoor all in the Town of Savannah in October. The species has occurred in the Region regularly in the fall, but can be difficult to locate. The Marten Tract has been a good location the last few years. Birders commented that White-throated and White-crowned Sparrow numbers were poor and their passage through the Region brief. Another seasonal highlight was a female **Summer Tanager** visiting the feeders of the Colby family in Ogden from late November through most of December. Many observers were able to see and photograph the bird. Other *icterid* plusses were Rusty Blackbird counts of 55 on 14 October and 37 on 1 November and a late **Baltimore Oriole** seen on 24 November at a feeder in the Town of Wheatland. There were almost no winter finches; exceptions were a

single Red Crossbill and a scattering of Pine Siskins, the latter not surprising with the species breeding locally this summer.

September's species total was 210, October's 209, and November's 143. September and November were just above their ten-year averages, October way above the 185.4 average for the month. Nineteen new species were added for the year bringing our 2009 total to 291, right at the ten-year average.

CONTRIBUTORS

Jessie Barry, Jim & Liz Barry, Bob Beal, Catherine Belair, Shawn Billerman, John Boettcher, Lynn Braband, George Briggs, Elizabeth (Betsy) Brooks – BBBO, Michael Burger, Bruce & Mary Ann Cady, Brad Carlson, Nancy Casper, Gary Chapin, Kelly Close, Fran & David Colby, Greg Coniglio, Lewis Crowell, Willie D'Anna, Kathlyn Dalton, Steve Daniel, Doug Daniels, Bob Dobson, Beth Frind, Kenny Frisch, Andy Garland, William Gillette, Charles Goulet, Kevin Griffith & Colleen Dox-Griffith, Judy Gurley, Andrew Guthrie, Richard Guthrie, Helen & Chris Haller, Meena Haribal, Kim Hartquist, Jack Hartwig, Michael Harvey, Chris Hollister, Carolyn Jacobs, Tom Johnson, Ryan Kayhart, Dave Kennedy, David Klein, Jim Kimball, Bruce Larson, Leona Lauster, Greg Lawrence, Jerry Lazarczyk, Tim Lenz, Maureen Leopold, Gerhard Leubner, Joan Lindberg, James Maley, Bob Marcotte, Cindy Marino, Pat Martin, Bob & Sandy Mauceli, Tom McDonald, Jay McGowan, Robert & Chita McKinney, Ferne Merrill, Joe Mitchell, Tom Nash, Marain Nelson, Jim Pawlicki, Norma Platt, Betsy Potter, Jay Powell, RBA Field trips, Doug Racine, Mickey Scilingo, Glenn Seeholzer, Dominic Sherony, Jeanne Skelly, Joe Slattery, Robert & Susan Spahn, David Spier, Richard Stanton, Diane Stout, Kimberly Sucy, William Symonds, Steve Taylor, Joyce Testa, David Tetlow, Michael & Joann Tetlow, Don & Donna Traver, Phil Van Arsdale, Mike Wasilco, Windbirders Muckrace Team (Bob Spahn, Allan Strong, & Kinsley Whittum), Chris Wiley, Chris Wood, Martha Zettel.

ABBREVIATIONS

AT – Auburn Trail, T Victor, MONR; BB – Braddock Bay, T Greece, MONR; BG – Bogus Point, T Parma, MONR; C – T Carlton, ORLE; CL – Conesus Lake, Inlet, LIVI; G – T Greece, MONR; GE – T Geneseo, LIVI; GR – Grieggsville, T York, LIVI; H – T Hamlin, MONR; HB – Hamlin Beach SP, MONR; HP – Hogan Pt, T Greece, MONR; IBS – Irondequoit Bay, south end, T Penfield, MONR; ICW – Island Cottage Woods, T Greece, MONR; M – Manitou, MONR; MAC – Montezuma Audubon Center, T Savannah, WAYN; MP – Mendon Ponds County P, T Mendon, MONR; N – T Newark, WAYN; OB – Ontario Beach, Charlotte, MONR; T Ont - T Ontario, WAYN; P - T Parma, MONR; PE – T Perinton, MONR; PI – T Pittsford, MONR; S – T Savannah, WAYN; SP – Sodus Pt, WAYN; W – T Webster, MONR; WH – T Wheatland, MONR.

PHOTO GALLERY
Fall 2009



Figure A. Gyrfalcon, Jones Beach SP, Nassau Co., 25 Oct 09, © Luke Ormand.



Figure B. Pink-footed Goose, Sunken Meadow SP, Suffolk Co., 3 Nov 09, © S. S. Mitra.



Figure C. Barnacle Goose, Sunken Meadow SP, Suffolk Co., 3 Nov 09, © S. S. Mitra.



Figure D. Cackling Goose, Mt. Loretto, Richmond Co., 6 Nov 09, © S. S. Mitra.



Figure E. Clay-colored Sparrow, Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, Erie Co., 28 Aug 09, © Jim Pawlicki.



Figure F. Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Savannah, Wayne Co., 25 Oct 09, © Tom Johnson.



Figure G. Black-headed Gull, Niagara River, Niagara Co., 24 Nov 09, © Brad Carlson and Dominic Sherony.



Figure H. Ash-throated Flycatcher, Ozone Park, Queens Co., 22 Nov 09, © Andrew Baksh. See Note, pp. 22-24.



Figure I. Swainson's Hawk, New Baltimore, Greene Co., 12 Oct 09, © Andrew Baksh. See Note, pp. 24-25.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: arr 1 HB 20-26 Sep, early; max 8000 S 28 Nov.
Ross's Goose: 1 C 13, 27 Nov (DT, GC).
Brant: arr 6 HB 25 Sep; max 345 HB 21 Oct.
Cackling Goose: arr 1-2 HB 21-27 Sep; 1 PE 1 Oct; max 5 HB 11 Oct; 1 HB 27 Oct.
Mute Swan: max 112 G 14 Oct.
Tundra Swan: arr 1 G 12 Oct; max 38 G 26 Nov.
Trumpeter Swan: max 36 MAC 15 Nov.
Gadwall: max 48 G 31 Oct.
Am. Wigeon: max 120 G 27 Oct.
N. Shoveler: max 20 G 4 Nov.
N. Pintail: arr 1 HB 4 Sep; max 450 HB 25 Sep.
Green-winged Teal: max 210 S 25 Sep.
Canvasback: arr 3 T Groveland, LIVI 30 Oct.
Ring-necked Duck: arr 5 HB 6 Sep; max 95 G 4 Nov.
Greater Scaup: arr 3 HB 4 Sep; max 64 HB 1 Nov, low.
Lesser Scaup: max 450 G 21 Nov.
Surf Scoter: arr 1 BG 5 Sep, early.
White-winged Scoter: max 558 HB 4 Nov, low.
Black Scoter: arr 1 HB 25 Sep; max 66 HB 4 Nov.
Long-tailed Duck: max 699 HB 4 Nov.
Bufflehead: arr 1 G 27 Oct; max 94 HB 3 Nov.
Com. Goldeneye: arr 2 G 17 Oct.
Barrow's Goldeneye: arr 1 PB 18 Nov (DT, MS).
Red-breasted Merganser: max 2265 G 4 Nov.
Ruddy Duck: arr 1 G 14 Oct.
Red-throated Loon: arr 1 HB 18 Sep; max 253 HB 7 Nov, low.
PACIFIC LOON: 1 HB 24-25 Oct (AGu, mob).
Com. Loon: 126 HB 26 Sep; 1st 100+ day; max 500+ SP 15 Nov.
Horned Grebe: arr 1 HB 14 Sep; max 76 HB 3 Nov, low.
Red-necked Grebe: 1-8 HB all Sep; 96 HB-PB 15 Nov (RS); 128 IB to Williamson, WAYN 15 Nov (MT), where typically scarce; max 173 HB 25 Nov (RS), pushed by a ship; good fall total.
EARED GREBE: 1 IB 5 Oct (CG), ph, first of year.
N. Gannet: 1 imm HB 1 Nov (mob), noted passing by 45 miles west in Region 1 only an hour or so later.
Double-crested Cormorant: max 700 G 6, 24, 25 Sep (JiB, LB, JeB).
GREAT CORMORANT: 2 ad HB 11 Sep (DT, DS, *et al.*).

Am. Bittern: 1 S 9 Sep; last 1 S 6 Oct.
Least Bittern: last 1 G 6 Oct.
Great Egret: last 2 BB 17 Oct.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: last 2 G 16 Nov.
Green Heron: last 1 PE 6 Oct.
Turkey Vulture: 30+ T Rush 5 Nov (MZ).

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: last 1 H 3 Nov (AGu).
N. Goshawk: 1 Daboll Rd 5 Sep (LL); 1 imm TOnt 21 Sep (MT, DS); 1 PI 12 Oct (BC); 1 W 28 Nov (FM).
Rough-legged Hawk: arr 2 S 18 Oct.
Golden Eagle: 1 G 31 Oct (JeG, CWo).
Merlin: total 4 all Sep.
Peregrine Falcon: total 6 all Sep.
PURPLE GALLINULE: MP 11, 13 Oct (PM, BC), 4th Reg record, died, *intro*.
Com. Moorhen: last 2 S 25 Oct.
Sandhill Crane: 5 S 19 Sep (LL); 13 S 26 Oct (JA); 2 G 20 Oct (DT); 2 Taylor Marsh 11 Nov (LB); max 16 S 29 Nov (JS, BL).
Black-bellied Plover: last 2 GE 2 Nov.
Am. Golden-Plover: max 100 T Byron, GENE 6 Sep (JM); last 1 G 19 Oct (DT).
Semipalmated Plover: last 2 P 17 Oct.
AMERICAN AVOCET: 1 IBS 27-28 Oct (TN, mob).
Spotted Sandpiper: last CL 25 Oct.
Solitary Sandpiper: last IBS 28 Oct.
Greater Yellowlegs: last G 3 Nov.
Willet: max 14 HB 6 Sep (WS), Regional record high.
Lesser Yellowlegs: last 1, 3 G, IBS 30 Oct.
Whimbrel: 1 HB 1 Sep (mob); 1 HB 2 Sep (WS, DT); 2 HB 3 Sep (WS, AGu).
LONG-BILLED CURLEW: 1 HB 12 Sep (AGu), photo, 1st Reg record.
Hudsonian Godwit: 1 S 25 Oct (LL, mob).
Sanderling: last OB 4 Nov.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: last G 1-2 Nov.
Least Sandpiper: last IBS 8 Nov.
White-rumped Sandpiper: last G 8 Nov.
Purple Sandpiper: arr HB 24 Oct (AGu).
Dunlin: arr G 23 Sep; max 260 G 30 Oct (KG).
Stilt Sandpiper: last BB 18 Nov (DT), record late.
Long-billed Dowitcher: arr S 3 Oct (BC).
Wilson's Snipe: last GE 2 Nov.
Red-necked Phalarope: BB 13 Oct (KG).
Black-legged Kittiwake: arr 2 BG 9 Sep (DT); 1 BG 14 Sep (DT).
Bonaparte's Gull: max 185 G 4 Nov, low.
Little Gull: OB 31 Oct (KG), only report.
Franklin's Gull: 1 1st cycle HB 30 Sep (RS, JH).

Iceland Gull: 1 G 10 Nov (BC); 1 T Newark 27 Nov (BF).
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 1 2nd win OB 18 Oct (KF); 1 1st win IBS 21 Oct (KF); 1 1st win G 11 Nov (RS); 1 BB 23 Nov (DT).
Caspian Tern: last 1 IBS 5 Oct.
Com. Tern: max 19 HB 24 Sep; last 2 BB 17 Oct.
Forster's Tern: 2 HB 19 Sep (RS).
Pomarine Jaeger: arr 1 imm HB 25 Sep (WS, RS).
Parasitic Jaeger: 2 HB 14 Sep (WS); 1 HB 17 Sep (WS); 1 ad HB 18 Sep (WS, RS); 1 BB 7 Oct (KG); 1 HB 25 Oct (AGu); 2 ad G 31 Oct (JeB, CWo, Ji&LB); 1 HB 3 Nov (RS); 1 HB 7 Nov (AGu, DT).

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Eurasian Collared Dove: 1-2 all Sep H (mob); 1-2 all Sep P (mob); 1 P 13 Oct (AGu); 1-2 P all Nov.
Snowy Owl: arr 1 H 27 Nov (TM), banded.
Short-eared Owl: arr 8 Genesee Com. College 26 Sep, early.
Com. Nighthawk: max 10 T Penfield 1 Sep; last 1 G 11 Sep.
Whip-poor-will: 1 T ont 11 Sep (MT).
Chimney Swift: max 1000+ GR 12 Sep (GB); last 22 GR 13 Oct (GB, JK).
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last 1 fem G 22-27 Oct (KG), ph.
Red-headed Woodpecker: 1 T East Bloomfield, ONTA 1 Nov (DSt).

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: last 1b M 4 Oct.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last 1 T Perinton 26 Sep.
Least Flycatcher: last 1b M 5 Oct.
Great Crested Flycatcher: last 1 S 12 Sep.
E. Kingbird: last 1 H 11 Sep.
SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER: 1 S 24-25 Oct (DR, mob), 3rd Reg record.
N. Shrike: arr 1 HP 20 Oct.
Yellow-throated Vireo: last 1 S 12 Sep.
Blue-headed Vireo: last 6b M 18 Oct.
Warbling Vireo: last 1 N 2 Oct.
Philadelphia Vireo: arr 1b M 6 Sep; last 1b M 3 Oct.
Red-eyed Vireo: 61b M all Sep (BBBO); last 3b M 19 Oct.
Fish Crow: 1 G 27 Nov (KG), Reg record late.
Com. Raven: 1 Shore Acres, H 16 Sep (DT); max 3 T Honeoye Falls, MONR 2 Nov (BC), interesting locations.
Purple Martin: last 4 MAC 11 Sep.

Tree Swallow: max 5000 H 27 Sep, 2700 HB 4 Oct.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: max 22 C 15 Oct; last HB 9 Nov (AGu, *et al.*).
Bank Swallow: last 1 HB 2 Oct.
CAVE SWALLOW: max 73 HB 9 Nov DT, MT, mob).
House Wren: last 1 M 14 Oct.
Winter Wren: arr 1 G 9 Sep.
Sedge Wren: 2 HP 1 Oct (BC, JS).
Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 2650 HB 16 Oct (DT), State record high count.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 180 HB 16 Oct (DT); 454b M all Oct (BBBO); last 1 HB 13 Nov.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: last 1 ICW 16 Sep.
E. Bluebird: 2 WH 16 Nov (ML), white plumage.
Veery: last 1 M 14 Oct.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr 1 B M 8 Sep; last 27,1b ICW, M 4 Oct (RS, BBBO).
BICKNELL'S THRUSH: 2 HB 19 Sep (RS), id by call; 1b M 2 Oct (BBBO); 2 ICW 4 Oct (RS), id by call.
Swainson's Thrush: arr 1b M 2 Sep; last 1 N, AT 9 Oct.
Hermit Thrush: arr 1 HB 19 Sep.
Wood Thrush: last 6 ICW 4 Oct.
Am. Pipit: last 4 T Groveland, LIVI 27 Nov.
Cedar Waxwing: max 240 W 22 Nov.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: last 1 M 13 Sep.
Tennessee Warbler: last 1b M 5 Oct.
Orange-crowned Warbler: arr 1 IB 20 Sep (KH); 1b M 30 Sep (BBBO); 1 HB 30 Sep (RS); total 12 sev all Oct.
Nashville Warbler: last 2 S 10 Oct.
N. Parula: last 1 H 1 Oct.
Yellow Warbler: last 1 Conesus Lake Inlet, LIVI 11 Sep.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: last 3b M 15 Sep.
Magnolia Warbler: max 47b M 5 Sep; last 3b M 4 Oct.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: last 1 T Irondequoit, MONR 28 Nov thru (GL).
Black-throated Green Warbler: last 1 PI 8 Oct.
Blackburnian Warbler: last 1 G 3 Oct.
Pine Warbler: last 1 HB 9 Nov.
Bay-breasted Warbler: last 1 South Conesus, LIVI 1 Oct.
Palm Warbler: arr 1b M 14 Sep; last 1 S 25 Oct.
Blackpoll Warbler: max 75b M 5 Sep; last 4b M 5 Oct.
Black-and-white Warbler: last 2b M 12 Oct.

Am. Redstart: last 1b M 11 Oct.
Ovenbird: last 1 H 4 Oct.
N. Waterthrush: last 1 ICW 16 Sep.
Mourning Warbler: last 1b M 24 Sep.
Wilson's Warbler: last 1b M 29 Sep.
Canada Warbler: last 1b M 14 Sep.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr 1, 2b S, M 26 Oct.
Chipping Sparrow: last 1 Bushnell's Basin,
MONR 16 Nov (H&CH).
Clay-colored Sparrow: 1 Beatty Point, T
Greece 1-2 Oct (BC).
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: 5 S 1-6 Oct
(TJ, MH); 1-4 S 8-10 Oct (mob); 1 S 25 Oct
(LL), ph; 1-2 S 25 Oct (mob).

Fox Sparrow: arr 1 M 11 Oct; last 3 W 14
Nov.
Lincoln's Sparrow: arr 1 b M 14 Sep; last 2b
M 10 Oct.
White-throated Sparrow: arr 1 G 12 Sep; max
460 HB 16 Oct, low.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr 1b M 24 Sep;
low numbers reported.
Lapland Longspur: arr 1 HP 20 Oct.
Snow Bunting: arr 1 HP 20 Oct.
SUMMER TANAGER: 1 T Ogden, MONR
28 Nov thru (F&DC).
Scarlet Tanager: last 1 S 4 Oct.
Indigo Bunting: last 1 HB 19 Sep.
Bobolink: last 5 S 10 Oct.
Rusty Blackbird: max 55 PE 14 Oct.
Baltimore Oriole: last 1 WH 24 Nov (ML).
Red Crossbill: 1 W 22 Nov (BC).

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REGION 3—FINGER LAKES

Tom Johnson

150 Triphammer Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850
tbj4@cornell.edu

September got off to a chilly start, but average temperatures for the month were near normal. Precipitation for the month was slightly less than normal. October averaged 1.7° F cooler than normal, with average precipitation. November was 3.0° warmer than normal, with slightly less than average precipitation. An early snowfall of 2" on 16 October was the only snow recorded this season. It had some ornithological implications as discussed below looking at the grebes.

The Region's birders pay special attention to waterfowl in the fall through spring. This season, scrutiny of the exceptional duck and goose flocks of the Region turned up a full suite of regular uncommon to rare birds, including Greater White-fronted, Ross's, and Cackling Goose and Eurasian Wigeon. Mute Swan has a peculiar status in the Region. This season, only one individual was reported, an adult at Mud Lock on Cayuga Lake on 11-12 September. In the past, Mute Swan has been present in the area of Montezuma NWR spring through fall, with resident birds potentially moving a short distance to open water on Cayuga Lake during the winter. Examination of the hordes of Tundra Swans in recent winters has found Mutes and Trumpeters in the flocks. Special attention should be paid to swan identification in the Region with their changing status and distribution. Jay McGowan found a Bar-headed Goose at Montezuma NWR on 2 October; while this is a presumed escaped exotic that mixed in with

wild migrant geese, it is certainly worth paying attention to and documenting/recording non-native species that we encounter during our observations of wild birds. Analysis of patterns of records of the occurrence of Barnacle and Pink-footed Geese has largely resulted in a paradigm shift; while many used to dismiss such reports automatically as pertaining to escaped exotics, today most experts agree that many records of these species, including probably all Pink-footed Goose records in the northeastern US, represent wild vagrants, though escaped Barnacle Geese have been found.

Dave Nutter found a Pacific Loon at Sheldrake 5 November, and it lingered to at least 21 November. Distant photos, while inconclusive, suggested that this individual was a juvenile and therefore not a bird returning to the same site. Pacific Loon has been found at Sheldrake for several years running. Historical evidence has shown conclusively that multiple Pacific Loons have occurred on Cayuga Lake. This fall's bird suggests again that birders shouldn't necessarily assume that a "returning" rarity found at a familiar location is actually the same bird. Sheldrake is a site that attracts huge numbers of migrant Common Loons, and it stands to reason that rarities like Pacific Loon should be detected in small numbers each year. Perhaps continued scrutiny will resolve the status of this species in the Region and the State. Many Pied-billed Grebes were involved in a snow-related fallout at Stewart Park in Ithaca on 16 October. Counts peaked at 112 on 17 October and dropped back to two within a few days.

While walking his dog in Caroline on 17 October, John Confer encountered a rarely detected **Yellow Rail**. Inspired by the sighting, organized parties searched likely areas of the Montezuma NWR complex the next weekend but detected no Yellow Rails. Concerted efforts targeted at walking dense, low grass-type fields in mid to late fall might yield more records of this extremely reclusive migrant.

Shorebird watching at Montezuma NWR was focused on Mays Point Pool this fall, which attracted large numbers and good variety of shorebirds and waterfowl. Highlights at Mays Point Pool included American Avocet, Wilson's Phalarope, and Red-necked Phalarope. A rare-in-the-Region Western Sandpiper was studied at the MNWR visitor center on 11-12 September. It is rather interesting that Western Sandpiper is so rare in the Region; hundreds of Western Sandpipers can be seen together in fall on the Atlantic Coast from New Jersey south to Florida. These birds come from breeding grounds in Alaska. Western Sandpipers certainly come across the interior northeast at some point, but a paucity of records in interior New York and Pennsylvania begs the question: How do they get to the Atlantic Coast?

The winter gull season got off to an early start with Iceland, Thayer's, and Glaucous gulls reported on Cayuga Lake or in nearby Dryden during early November. A Laughing Gull showed up on the lighthouse jetty at Stewart Park, Ithaca, on 24 October. A juvenile Thayer's Gull appeared at Sheldrake on 6 November and was found further south on Cayuga Lake at Ithaca on 7 November, where it remained until 10 November. Solid, well-documented reports of this problem taxon are increasing in the Region.

Several passerines were detected unusually late this fall, including Least Flycatcher, Blue-headed Vireo, Barn Swallow, and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Four *Petrochelidon* swallows in Ithaca on 31 October were likely Cave Swallows given the date and recent pattern of Cave Swallow expansion and late fall vagrancy, but distant looks precluded conclusive identification. Warbler migration was interesting this year, with good numbers of boreal species being found, especially Cape May and Bay-breasted Warblers. Rare species included a dull “Audubon’s” Yellow-rumped Warbler seen briefly in Ithaca and an immature female Connecticut Warbler banded at Kestrel Haven Avian Migration Observatory in Schuyler County.

Finches were rather lightly represented, especially in the context of the past two years of large redpoll, siskin, and crossbill flights. A few Pine Siskins were reported, and only a single White-winged Crossbill was found, following a record year, fall 2008 - spring 2009, in the Region for both species.

Rarity highlights of the fall season included Pacific Loon, Yellow Rail, American Avocet, Laughing Gull, Thayer’s Gull, “Audubon’s” Yellow-rumped Warbler, and Connecticut Warbler.

In general, observers in the Region are heavily invested in the use of eBird for logging and tracking bird sightings. eBird data were used extensively in the preparation of this report, as were reports from the listserv, Cayugabirds-L.

CONTRIBUTORS

Paul Anderson, Jessie Barry (JHB), Shawn Billerman, Patrick Blake, Brad Carlson, John Confer, Nancy Dickinson, Jeff Gerbracht, Chuck Gibson, Jane Graves, John & Sue Gregoire, Kim Hartquist, Michael Harvey (MGH), Wes Hochachka, Marshall Iliff (MJI), Carolyn Jacobs, Tom Johnson (TBJ), Leona Lauster, Tim Lenz (TCL), Jay McGowan (JWM), Kevin McGowan (KJM), Bob McGuire (BMc), Matt Medler, Ann Mitchell, David Nicosia (DNI), Dave Nutter (DNu), Sandy Podulka, Kristi Rowland, Carolyn Sedgwick (CWS), Glenn Seeholzer (GFS), Nathan Senner (NRS), Maria Stager, Alison Van Keuren (AVK), Dan Watkins, Chris Wiley (CJW), Chris Wood (CLW).

ABBREVIATIONS

CU – Cornell University, Ithaca; KHAMO – Kestrel Haven Avian Migration Observatory, Burdett; MNWR – Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; MyPt – Myers Point; StP – Stewart Park, Ithaca; SSW – Sapsucker Woods.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Mute Swan: Mud Lock 11-12 Sep (TBJ, TCL, JWM, CJW), only report.

Trumpeter Swan: sev MNWR thru (mob).

Greater White-fronted Goose: arr MNWR 26 Sep (CJ, LL, KR); Aurora Bay 7 Nov (BC); last MNWR 29 Nov (CG, PB).

Ross’s Goose: arr MNWR 26 Sep (MM, MGH, SMB, CJW); Savannah Mucklands 28 Oct – 22 Nov (JHB, MGH, TBJ, CLW).

Snow Goose: 1 dark morph adult StP 1 Sep (TBJ), summered here; max 8000 Savannah Mucklands 21 Nov (TBJ).

Cackling Goose: arr 5 MNWR 10 Oct (BC); StP 31 Oct - 28 Nov (KR, MGH, TBJ, MM, MS, CWS); max 7 Deans Cove 22 Nov.
BAR-HEADED GOOSE: MNWR 3 Oct (JWM), presumed escaped/ released, *intro*.
Eurasian Wigeon: arr MNWR 6 Sep (TBJ, TCL, CJW); last MNWR 26 Oct (KH).
Ruddy Duck: max 245 northwest corner of Cayuga Lake 21 Nov (TBJ).
PACIFIC LOON: Sheldrake 5-21 Nov (DNu; WH, DNu, DW).
Com. Loon: max 240 Sheldrake 6 Nov (TBJ).
Pied-billed Grebe: max 112 StP 17 Oct (KR, TCL, DNu, PA).

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: Dryden 25 Oct (CLW).
YELLOW RAIL: Caroline 17 Oct (JC).
Sandhill Crane: MNWR thru (max 14); 13 Dryden 10 Oct (CLW).
AMERICAN AVOCET: MNWR thru 11 Sep (mob).
Sanderling: MNWR 8 Sep (BMc).
Western Sandpiper: MNWR 11-12 Sep (CTH, AVK, JG).
Long-billed Dowitcher: MNWR 6 Sep - 2 Nov (JHB, CLW).
Wilson's Phalarope: MNWR 2-9 Sep (DNu, mob).
Red-necked Phalarope: 2 StP 1 Sep (TBJ); MNWR 3 Sep (DNu).
LAUGHING GULL: Ithaca 24 Oct (AM, BMc).
THAYER'S GULL: Sheldrake 6 Nov (TBJ); Ithaca 7-10 Nov (TBJ, CWS).
Iceland Gull: arr Dryden 8 Nov (KJM).
Lesser Black-backed Gull: arr Ithaca 12 Sep (GFS, NRS).

Glaucous Gull: arr Ithaca 5 Nov (TBJ).

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Long-eared Owl: Mt. Pleasant, Dryden 15 Sep (BMc).
Red-headed Woodpecker: arr Brooktondale 11 Sep (SP); Dryden 24-26 Oct (CLW).

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Least Flycatcher: Ithaca 8 Nov (MGH), late.
Blue-headed Vireo: Lansing 7 Nov (MGH, TBJ, MM, MS, CWS), late.
Cliff Swallow: StP 13 Oct (CLW, JHB, JG), late.
Cliff/ Cave Swallow sp.: 4 StP 31 Oct (TBJ).
Barn Swallow: Sheldrake 6 Nov (TBJ), late.
Sedge Wren: MNWR 11 Sep (TBJ, TCL, JWM, CJW).
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Ithaca 1 Nov (CJW), late.

WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: SSW 9 Sep (GFS).
"AUDUBON'S" YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER: Hog Hole Ithaca 20 Oct (TBJ).
CONNECTICUT WARBLER: imm f banded KHAMO 2 Oct (JSG).

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Nelson's Sparrow: arr Hog Hole Ithaca 2 Oct (TBJ); max 2 Hog Hole Ithaca 9 Oct (TBJ, MJJ, TCL).
Grasshopper Sparrow: Freese Rd., Dryden 18 Sep (KJM).
White-winged Crossbill: Mecklenburg 3 Sep (ND).
Pine Siskin: arr Lansing 12 Sep (RD); last Dryden 23 Nov (JHB, CLW).

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REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

No report was received for Region 4 this season.

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REGION 5—ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

Bill Purcell

281 Baum Road, Hastings, New York, 13076

wpurcell@twcny.rr.com

The season was drier than normal with few strong cold fronts and an especially tranquil November. Lakes and ponds remained open at the end of the season, and the Tug Hill Plateau and Herkimer County had no snow cover. For September, the average temperature was 61.3° F, the same as the long term average, and there was 2.27" of precipitation, 1.88" below normal. The October averages were 49.0°, 1.1° below normal and 4.08" of precipitation, 0.88" above normal. In November the temperature averaged 43.4°, 3.7° above normal, and there was 2.16" of rain, 1.61" below normal with only 0.3" of snow.

Greater White-fronted Goose was found at three locations in November although it may have been the same bird moving around. One large flock of Snow Geese was seen in September, but there were few other reports by the end of November. The largest Brant movement occurred on what is considered locally to be "off-winds", but then there was only one day during their typical migration period that had the "correct" winds, i.e. strong northwest. There were several reports of Cackling Goose, Trumpeter Swans were seen at their usual Fair Haven location, and many Tundra Swans moved onto Oneida Lake in November.

An evening Wood Duck flight at Three Mile Bay WMA was the best in several years and there was a record one-day Northern Pintail flight, but otherwise dabblers were reported in low numbers. There were large numbers of scaup and Common Goldeneye in the North Bay area of Oneida Lake, apparently eating zebra mussels, and Long-tailed Ducks were also eating zebra mussels on Lake Ontario. Other waterfowl highlights included a large flight of dark-winged scoters migrating along Lake Ontario and high numbers of Ruddy Ducks on Beaver Lake.

Loon chicks on Stillwater Reservoir in September had apparently hatched in early August. A dead Common Loon recovered on Nick's Lake was found to have been banded in 1998. Least Bittern remained into September, a Great Egret lingered to early November, and there were good counts of Pied-billed Grebes and Green Herons. Many Common Moorhen remained in September at our best known breeding site, but there were low numbers of American Coot at Fair Haven and Woodman Pond in comparison with numbers earlier in the decade. Sandhill Cranes were noted at several locations, especially around Deer Creek WMA.

In the raptor department there was another one day high for fall Turkey Vultures, but in general the mild weather did little to push migrant hawks to the eastern shore of Lake Ontario. It was a good season for Northern Harrier, Merlin, and Peregrine Falcon sightings, but there had been few Rough-legged Hawks by the end of the season.

With high water at Delta Lake until later in the season there were no particularly high counts for the more common shorebirds, but lingering birds included Semipalmated Plover as well as Spotted, Solitary, and Least Sandpipers. A juvenile Long-billed Dowitcher was the first sighting in the Region in 11 years. Buff-breasted Sandpipers arrived a few days late but were seen for nearly three weeks at a sod farm. The lone Purple Sandpiper reported arrived very late in the mild November. No Stilt Sandpipers or Whimbrel were seen, and the only phalaropes for the season were four distant birds at Derby Hill that could not be identified as to species.

The season was marked by a distinct lack of the strong cold fronts that traditionally bring gulls and jaegers past Derby Hill, but 10 Parasitic Jaegers were seen on the strongest front in October and four Black-legged Kittiwakes came by on the big November front. An adult Little Gull was seen on the south side of Oneida Lake for two weeks in November. There were several Lesser Black-backed Gulls on Lake Ontario, and single Iceland and Glaucous Gulls were seen. Black Tern lingered into September, and two Forster's Terns accompanied a large flock of Common Terns at Sandy Pond. Both cuckoo species were found in September. Local owls were well reported, especially Barred Owl, but no Short-eared Owls were found despite searching at traditional locations. There were also no Snowy Owl reports after last year's large irruption. Only one Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen. Northern Shrike was scarce. Vireos were unremarkable except for the many Philadelphia Vireo reports. Fish Crow and Common Raven continue to expand, but Tufted Titmouse and Northern Cardinal were only fleeting November visitors in the Old Forge area.

The fall warbler migration was thought of as poor by some observers, while others did find a steady flow into October. Counts for most species were not very high, and the mild weather did not favor any fall-outs. Two **Connecticut Warblers** were seen in Clay Marsh and carefully described by David Nash. Neither of the waterthrushes was reported, but early migrants like Mourning, Canada, and Hooded Warblers were all seen. Only Yellow-rumped and Palm Warblers were reported in November. As is now customary, birders taking part in the Montezuma Muckrace were responsible for many sightings on Howland Island on 12 September.

The sparrow migration included many Lincoln's Sparrows, a single Clay-colored Sparrow, few Am. Tree Sparrows, a single migrant Vesper Sparrow, and one Lapland Longspur. White-crowned Sparrows were sparse in most areas, and Snow Bunting seemed to be hanging back in migration. There were two October reports of Bobolink, including a record late date. On a mid-November visit to Stillwater Reservoir Tom Salo found no finches other than American Goldfinch. Finch numbers were low overall, with no Pine Grosbeak, White-winged Crossbill, or Common Redpoll reports. There were some Purple Finches, a handful of Red Crossbills, isolated Pine Siskins, and a lone Evening Grosbeak.

For the season 231 species were reported, the same as the average for the past 10 years. Highlights included Greater White-fronted Goose, record N. Pintails, Sandhill Cranes, Long-billed Dowitcher, Black-legged Kittiwake after a one year absence, Forster's Tern, and Connecticut Warbler. One species not

included elsewhere in this account is the Wayne County **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** which flew to a tree that may have been in Cayuga County at the edge of Region 5. The bird quickly returned to the fields in which it was seen for two days.

CONTRIBUTORS

Betty Thruster, Brenda Best, Sue Boettger, Joseph Brin, Ken Burdick, Rose Burdick, Andrea Burke, Pat Byrne, Bernie Carr, Gerald Case, Jared Caster, Bill Gruenbaum, Larry Hall, Jody Hildreth, Gene Huggins, Matt Kauffman, Glenn Koppel, Robert LaCelle, Gary Lee, Jason Mauro, Kevin McGann, David Nash, Kevin Pace, Matt Perry, Bill Purcell, Paul Richardson, Kristi Rowland, Margaret Rusk, Tom Salo, Mickey Scilingo, Tony Shrimpton, Gerald Smith, Sheila Smith, Maureen Staloff, Phil Taylor, Judith Thurber, Emily Waladt, Brian White, Tim Whitens, Mike Winslow, Judy Wright, Matt Young, Ken Zoller.

ABBREVIATIONS

BRH – Bishop Road Hawk Watch, T Richland; Bvll – Baldwinsville; CM – Clay Marsh; DH – Derby Hill; DL – Delta Lake; Dvl – Durhamville; FH – Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay and vicinity; GLSP – Green Lakes SP; GSC – Great Swamp Conservancy, n. MADI; HI – Howland Island WMA; OnonL – Onondaga Lake; SHF – Sky High Sod Farms, T Sullivan; SFNS – Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary, Kirkland; Skan – Skaneateles; SL – T's Sullivan & Lenox mucklands; SPd – Sandy Pond; SVB – Sylvan and Verona Beach; Syr – Syracuse; TR – Three Rivers WMA; VB – Van Buren; WM – West Monroe; WPd – Woodman Pond, Hamilton.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: Meridian 8 Nov (KM); VB 12-20 Nov (JB); Otisco L 28 Nov (AB).
Snow Goose: arr GSC 19 Sep; max 180 SPd 27 Sep.
Brant: max 740 FH 24 Oct.
Cackling Goose: 2 WPd 5 Nov (BW); 4 Leland Pd 7 Nov (BB); VB 8, 25 Nov (JB).
Canada Goose: first large migration 19-20 Sep; max 11,000 S. Madison 29 Nov.
Mute Swan: max 30 FH 21 Oct.
Trumpeter Swan: max 6 FH 20 Oct.
Tundra Swan: arr Bernhard's Bay 14 Nov; max 37 DH 28 Nov.
Wood Duck: max 910 Three Mile Bay WMA 19 Sep.
Gadwall: max 6 WPd 14 Nov.
Am. Wigeon: max 32 WPd 7 Nov.
Am. Black Duck: max 94 DH 28 Nov.
Blue-winged Teal: max 27 Volney 8 Sep.
N. Shoveler: max 8 Utica Marsh 26 Nov.

N. Pintail: max 2382 DH 7 Oct, record single-day count.

Green-winged Teal: max 32 SPd 3 Oct.

Canvasback: 2 Otisco L 28 Nov, only report.

Redhead: max 2 SVB 22 Nov.

Ring-necked Duck: max 148 Hatch L 16 Nov.

Greater Scaup: max 500 SPd 22 Nov.

Lesser Scaup: max 3500 SVB 22 Nov.

Surf Scoter: max 10 FH 24 Oct; Big Moose L 13 Nov, unusual.

White-winged Scoter: max 74 SPd 22 Nov.

Black Scoter: max 8 DH 28 Nov.

Scoter species: 1660 FH 24 Oct, dark-winged.

Long-tailed Duck: max 1600 SPd 22 Nov.

Bufflehead: max 68 SVB 5 Nov.

Com. Goldeneye: FH 6 Sep; max 400 SVB 22 Nov.

Hooded Merganser: max 175 Otisco L 28 Nov.

Com. Merganser: max 194 DL 14 Nov.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 300 FH 11 Nov.

Ruddy Duck: max 283 Beaver L 24 Nov (JB).
Ruffed Grouse: common Adks & Tug Hill.
Red-throated Loon: max 3 per day FH after 31 Oct.
Com. Loon: month-old chick Tamarack L 12 Sep; max 96 FH 1 Nov.
Pied-billed Grebe: max 54 HI 26 Oct.
Horned Grebe: max 78 FH & Sterling 29 Nov.
Red-necked Grebe: max 5 DH 25 Oct.
Double-crested Cormorant: max 380 Oswego 2 Sep.
Least Bittern: 2 Volney 8 Sep.
Great Egret: reports from T Floyd, Little Falls, GSC and last T Onondaga 1 Nov (JM).
Green Heron: max 52 Volney 8 Sep; last Syr 8 Oct.
Turkey Vulture: max 1153 BRH 15 Oct.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: max 8 BRH 16 Sep; last FH 11 Nov.
Bald Eagle: max 13 Stillwater Res 27 Oct.
N. Harrier: max 9 BRH 11 Nov.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 15 BRH 16 Sep.
Cooper's Hawk: max 3 per day.
N. Goshawk: max 2 BRH 11 Nov; 5 other reports.
Red-shouldered Hawk: max 3 BRH 15 Oct & 3 DH 27 Oct.
Broad-winged Hawk: max 605 BRH 16 Sep.
Red-tailed Hawk: max 268 BRH 15 Oct.
Rough-legged Hawk: arr 2 BRH 15 Oct; max 4 BRH 11 Nov.
Golden Eagle: 7 reports 15 Oct-26 Nov.
Am. Kestrel: max 12 BRH 16 Sep.
Merlin: max 3 BRH 9 Sep; reports from 10 other sites.
Peregrine Falcon: migrant max 2 per day; reports from 9 locations.
Virginia Rail: 4 reports to 26 Sep.
Com. Moorhen: max 45 Volney 8 Sep.
Am. Coot: max 24 WPd 15 Nov.
Sandhill Crane: 2 Deer Creek WMA 19 Sep; 3 BRH 25 Sep; Elbridge 12 Oct; Hannibal 17 Oct.
Black-bellied Plover: max 6 SVB 18 Oct; last FH 24 Oct.
Am. Golden-Plover: max 16 SHF 20-23 Sep; last Conquest 3 Oct.
Semipalmated Plover: max 11 SPd 9 Sep; last FH 21 Oct.
Killdeer: max 277 SHF 9 Sep.
Spotted Sandpiper: max 12 OnonL 5 Sep; last VB 21 Oct, late.
Solitary Sandpiper: last Skan 15 Oct.
Greater Yellowlegs: max 8 FH 24 Oct; 2 Stillwater Res 12 Nov.
Lesser Yellowlegs: max 15 DL 18 Sep; last Skan 1 Nov.

Ruddy Turnstone: max 3 SVB 23 Sep; last 2 SVB 24 Sep.
Red Knot: 1-2 SPd to 9 Sep.
Sanderling: max 31 SPd 1 Sep; 10 SVB 28 Oct.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 8 SPd 1 Sep; last 2 SVB 24 Sep.
Least Sandpiper: max 40 SL 7 Sep; last SL 27 Oct.
White-rumped Sandpiper: 4 T Conquest 24 Oct, only report.
Baird's Sandpiper: max 3 SHF 2, 4 Sep; last SHF 15 Sep.
Pectoral Sandpiper: max 9 Beaver River 26 Sep; last 7 SL 27 Oct.
Purple Sandpiper: FH 28-29 Nov, only report.
Dunlin: arr FH 29 Sep; max 27 FH 1 Nov.
Buff-breasted Sandpiper: arr 2 SHF 8 Sep; last SHF 25 Sep.
Short-billed Dowitcher: SPd 9 Sep, only report.
LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER: SL 3-5 Sep (TS, KM).
Wilson's Snipe: max 8 Salisbury 16 Sep.
Am. Woodcock: 9 reports, more than usual.
phalarope sp: 4 DH 7 Oct.
Black-legged Kittiwake: max 4 DH 28 Nov, only report.
Bonaparte's Gull: max 300 SVB 18 Sep.
Little Gull: Oneida L 11-27 Nov (mob).
Ring-billed Gull: max 7800 DH 28 Nov.
Herring Gull: max 640 DH 28 Nov.
Iceland Gull: DH 28 Nov.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: SPd to 7 Sep; 2 DH 29 Sep.
Glaucous Gull: Madison landfill after 15 Nov.
Caspian Tern: max 54 SPd 1 Sep; last 2 FH 5 Oct.
Black Tern: SPd 9 Sep, only report.
Com. Tern: max 380 SPd 9 Sep.
Forster's Tern: SPd 7 Sep; 2 SPd 9 Sep.
Parasitic Jaeger: DH 28 Sep; 10 DH 7 Oct.
jaeger sp: DH 19 Sep; FH 28 Nov.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Camden 25 Sep.
Black-billed Cuckoo: VB 2 Sep; Amboy 20 Sep.
Barred Owl: 5 Amboy heard at one site 20 Sep, numerous other reports.
Long-eared Owl: Bvll 7 Nov (EW).
N. Saw-whet Owl: Pennelville 1 Nov; N Syr 15 Nov.
Com. Nighthawk: max 3 Syr 6 Sep; 5 other reports to 12 Sep.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 6 Dvl 12 Sep; last SFNS 3 Oct.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 4 per day 20 Sep to 9 Oct.
N. Flicker: max 12 SPd 9 Sep.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: TR 9 Sep, only report.
E. Wood-Pewee: last WM 15 Oct.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: max 3 HI 12 Sep; last Tully 18 Sep.
Alder Flycatcher: last HI 12 Sep.
Willow Flycatcher: last SPd 9 Sep.
Least Flycatcher: last SFNS 24 Sep.
E. Phoebe: last Camden 28 Oct.
Great Crested Flycatcher: 5 reports, last SFNS 21 Sep.
E. Kingbird: N Syr 3 Sep; Hastings 10 Sep.
N. Shrike: arr TR 4 Nov; 4 other reports.
Yellow-throated Vireo: last VB 17 Sep.
Blue-headed Vireo: last 2 FH 1 Nov.
Warbling Vireo: max 4 per day; last Fayetteville 3 Oct.
Philadelphia Vireo: arr 2 Dvl 7 Sep; max 4 HI 12 Sep; last OnonL 3 Oct.
Red-eyed Vireo: last SPd 4 Oct.
Blue Jay: max 1344 Hastings 24 Sep.
Fish Crow: routine 3 sites Syr plus Liverpool.
Com. Raven: max 12 Fairfield 20 Nov; 4 reports Syr suburbs.
Horned Lark: max 68 BRH 11 Nov.
Purple Martin: max 3 DH 10 Sep; last HI 12 Sep.
Tree Swallow: max 65 SPd 1 Sep; last 15 Fabius 11 Oct.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: max 35 HI 12 Sep; last Mexico 31 Oct.
Bank Swallow: last HI 12 Sep.
Cliff Swallow: max 3 VB 1 Sep; last CM 21 Sep.
Barn Swallow: max 90 SPd 1 Sep; last DH 3 Oct.
Tufted Titmouse: Okara Lakes 20 Nov.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: 6 Camden 29 Nov, only concentration.
White-breasted Nuthatch: 7 SPd 9 Sep, migrants in dunes.
House Wren: last Hastings 19 Oct.
Winter Wren: max 5 CM 12 Oct.
Marsh Wren: last FH 3 Oct.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 15 CM 12 Oct.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 18 CM 12 Oct; last FH 1 Nov.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 4 to last Munnsville 12 Sep.
E. Bluebird: max 17 WM 9 Oct & 17 Camden 22 Oct.
Veery: singles to last T Onondaga 4 Oct.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: HI 12 Sep.

Swainson's Thrush: widespread 1-2 per day 6 Sep to 7 Oct.
Hermit Thrush: max 5 SFNS 18 Oct.
Wood Thrush: max 4 HI 12 Sep; last Clinton 3 Oct.
Gray Catbird: max 38 Camillus 16 Sep; last SFNS 15 Nov.
Brown Thrasher: max 3 DH 3 Oct; last CM 2 Nov.
Am. Pipit: max 115 BRH 15 Oct.
Cedar Waxwing: max 200 Dvl 1 Oct.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: max 4 HI 12 Sep; last Hastings 18 Sep.
Golden-winged Warbler: last TR 12 Sep.
Tennessee Warbler: singles only, last Dvl 5 Oct.
Orange-crowned Warbler: 6 reports 27 Sep to 21 Oct.
Nashville Warbler: max 2 per day; last VB 13 Oct.
N. Parula: 6 reports, last OnonL 6 Oct.
Yellow Warbler: max and last 3 SPd 9 Sep.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 2 per day Sep; last Nelson 9 Oct.
Magnolia Warbler: max 8 per day to 12 Sep; singles after to last Elbridge 6 Oct.
Cape May Warbler: 5 reports; last 2 Dvl 29 Sep.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 2 per day; last Nelson 12 Oct.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 40 GLSP 15 Oct.
Black-throated Green Warbler: max 5 SFNS 2 Oct; last GLSP 15 Oct.
Blackburnian Warbler: max 2 per day; last SPd 27 Sep.
Pine Warbler: max 4 Syr 11 Sep; last 2 Hastings 9 Oct.
Palm Warbler: max 3 per day to 13 Oct; last GLSP 7 Nov.
Bay-breasted Warbler: max 4 HI 12 Sep; last SFNS, TR & Lysander 24 Sep.
Blackpoll Warbler: max 3 SFNS 26 Sep; last Mexico 1 Oct.
Cerulean Warbler: Dvl 8 Sep; HI 12 Sep.
Black-and-white Warbler: max 2 per day; last 2 Deer Creek WMA 1 Oct.
Am. Redstart: max 5 HI 12 Sep; last 3 Camden 3 Oct.
Ovenbird: 5 reports to last Elbridge 6 Oct.
Connecticut Warbler: 2 CM 21 Sep (DN!).
Mourning Warbler: last 2 Dvl 5 Sep.
Com. Yellowthroat: last SFNS 8 Oct.
Hooded Warbler: VB 1 Sep, only report.
Wilson's Warbler: max 4 SPd 9 Sep; last SPd 4 Oct.

Canada Warbler: max 2 Cicero 7 Sep; last Dvl 12 Sep.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: max 7 Hastings 9 Oct.

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr CM 26 Oct; max 15 CM 2 Nov.

Chipping Sparrow: max 54 Camden 3 Oct.

Clay-colored Sparrow: Richland 27 Sep.

Field Sparrow: max 6 per day.

Vesper Sparrow: CM 19 Oct, only migrant reported.

Savannah Sparrow: max 6 Pulaski 16 Sep.

Fox Sparrow: arr SFNS 5 Oct; max 8 Lysander 18 Oct; last SFNS 19 Nov.

Song Sparrow: max 140 WM 9 Oct.

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr Hastings 11 Sep; max 3 per day to 19 Oct, widespread.

Swamp Sparrow: max 42 WM 6 Oct.

White-throated Sparrow: max 107 WM 9 Oct.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr Hastings 28 Sep; max 24 Salisbury 17 Oct.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 50 Dvl 19 Oct.

Lapland Longspur: FH 1 Nov, only report.

Snow Bunting: arr 19 FH 24 Oct; max 137 BRH 11 Nov.

Scarlet Tanager: max 9 HI 12 Sep; last Mexico 1 Oct.

N. Cardinal: 2 Thendara 14-15 Nov, unusual at loc.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 7 HI 12 Sep; last Lysander 18 Oct.

Indigo Bunting: last Mexico 4 Oct.

Bobolink: max 183 Three Mile Bay WMA 1 Sep; SFNS 6 Oct; Camden 26 Oct (RL), Reg record late.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 50,000 SL 9 Oct.

E. Meadowlark: max 4 per day.

Rusty Blackbird: arr 2 CM 21 Sep; max 225 CM 19 Oct.

Com. Grackle: max 6500 Mallory 29 Sep.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 160 BRH 17 Oct.

Baltimore Oriole: 5 reports, last CM 28 Sep.

Purple Finch: max 10 SFNS 21 Sep.

Red Crossbill: max 4 Georgetown 5 Sep.

Pine Siskin: max 3 Camden 9 Nov; scattered singles thru.

Am. Goldfinch: max 200 SFNS 12 Oct.

Evening Grosbeak: Camden 11 Nov, only report.

EXOTICS

Bar-headed Goose: VB 1 Oct.

N. Bobwhite: heard SL thru 30 Sep.

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REGION 6—ST. LAWRENCE

Jeffrey S. Bolsinger

98 State Street, Canton NY 13617

jsbolsinger@yahoo.com

September was relatively warm and dry, which most North Country residents found to be a great relief after the seemingly endless cool, damp weather that predominated throughout most of the spring and summer. The average temperature in Watertown for September was 60.9° F, which is just 0.8° above normal, but the 2.3" of rain that fell was exactly half of average. This dry respite from a generally cold and wet year ended in October, as the month's mean temperature was 46.4°, or 1.8° below normal, and measurable precipitation fell on 12 of the first 13 days of the month. This precipitation fell much as it did earlier in the year, a little bit at a time most days of the week, and total

precipitation for October was 4.7", only 0.9" above normal. November was unseasonably warm, with a mean temperature of 42.3°, or 4.8° above average. The 3.1" of precipitation that fell in November was 1.5" below normal. Not surprisingly, given the relatively warm November, Watertown received no measurable snowfall for the season.

High pressure predominated throughout September, and with a few exceptions migration was very slow. Several observers commented on the scarcity of migrants, and a question I heard frequently all fall from both birders and non-birders was "Where are the geese?" Small numbers of Canada and Snow Geese passed through the Region from mid-September through early October, but after that virtually no sizable movements were noted through the end of the period. Presumably these birds stayed to our north into December. Consequently, most goose observations for the period consisted of local movements between feeding and roosting sites. The most notable exception was a **Ross's Goose** seen in a flock of low-flying Canada Geese over Fort Drum during mid-October on one of the few days when geese moved conspicuously. As usual, I received a few Brant reports, but this species mostly passed through the Region unnoticed.

A few species highlighted the duck migration. For the second consecutive fall, an adult male **Eurasian Wigeon** was at Wilson Hill WMA, this time for at least a month. Five King Eiders at Montario Point in late November marked the second time in three years that multiple eiders were found at this location. Black Scoters made an impressive showing, with several reports from inland locations, including 58 on the Black River, 130 at Upper and Lower Lakes WMA on 2 November, and smaller tallies at several locations during October and November. These Black Scoter numbers are the highest reported from the Region in about 20 years, but many earlier high counts came from the head pond above the Robert Moses Dam in Massena, which is no longer accessible to birders because of concerns about terrorism. Most other duck species were observed in average to below average numbers.

Loons and Grebes mostly moved through in modest numbers, although daily November counts of 1-5 Red-necked Grebes on the St. Lawrence River between Waddington and Massena were more than usual. Certainly the highlight among wader reports was the **186 Great Egrets** at the roost site in Stockholm; it seems that this site is setting Regional record high egret counts annually. An American Bittern at Perch River WMA on 24 October was somewhat later than usual. American Coots were notably scarce, especially compared with the previous two falls, when good numbers of coots were observed at several locations in Jefferson and St. Lawrence Counties.

Generally speaking, raptor numbers were lackluster, and by the end of the season it certainly did not look like the winter was going to be a particularly good one for raptor watchers. There were a few highlights, including three Golden Eagles and five Peregrine Falcons, but most species were observed in relatively low numbers. Merlin was notable among these species, as the two reports I received was well below the totals reported in recent falls. The first Rough-legged Hawk, found in Hounsfield by Gerry Smith on 17 September,

was about a month earlier than usual, but this was the only report until mid-October, when a modest number of birds began showing up. By season's end raptor numbers were low to average in most traditional wintering areas.

High water levels on Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River continued well into September, and shorebirds were consequently hard to come by during the traditional peak of migration for most species. Water levels dropped steadily throughout most of September, and by early October a fair amount of shoreline was exposed, so it was natural to expect that some of the typically late migrating species might be seen in good numbers, but shorebirds remained scarce throughout. Despite this general scarcity, 19 species were reported, which is better than some recent falls. The highlight was a Red Phalarope at Coles Creek SP on the St. Lawrence River on 1 November. Other notable shorebirds included a Whimbrel at El Dorado and 11 American Golden-Plovers in a recently harvested cornfield in Louisville, representing the largest group of golden-plovers reported in Region 6 in many years.

Most observers felt that the landbird migration was very slow, and that many species seemed to slip through rather quickly, with few lingering past their typical migration windows. There were relatively few days when substantial movements of birds were noted, the largest passage occurring on 24 September, when a nice diversity of species was observed, with particularly large numbers of Swainson's Thrush, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and White-throated Sparrow. Also observed briefly on this day was a **Dickcissel** on Fort Drum.

Many passerine and near passerine species seemed to vacate the breeding grounds relatively early this fall, as illustrated by systematic searches for three species on Fort Drum in both 2008 and 2009. During 2008, Red-headed Woodpeckers were consistently seen in breeding areas until 18 September, Sedge Wrens until 14 October, and Clay-colored Sparrows until 3 October. This year similar efforts turned up no Red-headed Woodpeckers after 1 September, no Sedge Wrens after 9 September (despite record numbers this summer and apparently excellent productivity), and no Clay-colored Sparrows during the period. Anecdotal observations suggest that many other breeding species departed relatively quickly. Aside from isolated reports of Red and White-winged Crossbill and a few scattered Pine Siskins, there was no movement of northern finches or other irruptives into the area. Consequently, by the middle of November there seemed to be few birds present in upland areas other than resident species, making for quite a contrast with the previous two falls, when finches and other northern irruptives flooded into the Region during this period.

The season's species tally was 198, which is slightly below the average from recent falls, the main difference being that many winter species that have shown up each of the last few Novembers didn't this year. Waterfowl dominated the highlights, including Ross's Goose, Eurasian Wigeon, King Eider, and large numbers of Black Scoter, along with Red Phalarope and Dickcissel. The "lowlight" was certainly the general lack of birds late in the season, an early suggestion that it might be a very long winter for North Country birders.

CONTRIBUTORS

Marilyn Badger, Jeff Bolsinger, Carol Cady, Sheila Cerwonka, Bernie Carr, Joan Collins, Chris Dobony, Amy Finfera, Michael Greenwald, Mike Jeziorski, Nick Leone, Eugene Nichols, David Prosser, Robert Scranton, Gerry Smith, MaryBeth Warburton.

ABBREVIATIONS

BRB – Black River Bay; CCSP – Coles Creek SP; CV – Cape Vincent; ED – El Dorado Shores Preserve; FD – Fort Drum Military Reservation; GPSP – Grass Point SP; ICNC – Indian Creek Nature Center, Canton; ML – Massawepie Lake, Piercefield; MP – Montario Point, Ellisburg; PRGC – Partridge Run Golf Course trail, Canton; PRWMA – Perch River WMA; PtPen – Pt. Peninsula; SBSP – Southwick Beach SP; SLR – St. Lawrence River; TP – Tibbet's Point, Cape Vincent; ULLWMA – Upper and Lower Lakes WMA; WHWMA – Wilson Hill WMA; WP – Whalen Park, Louisville; WS – Winthrop Swamp, Stockholm.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: arr ED 18 Sep; few reports thru.
ROSS'S GOOSE (R6): with 60 Canada Geese FD 15 Oct (JB).

Brant: 8 arr CV 10 Oct; max 250 CV 12 Oct.
Tundra Swan: sev reports 30-100 per day CV & PtPen early Nov thru.

Trumpeter Swan: 2 Pleasant Lake T Champion 25 Sep; 5 PRWMA 2 Oct.

Wood Duck: last FD 3 Nov.

Gadwall: max 60 WHWMA 2 Nov.

EURASIAN WIGEON (R6): ad m WHMWA 7 Oct - 8 Nov (JB).

Am. Wigeon: max 360 PRWMA 24 Oct.

Am. Black Duck: max 272 PtPen 7 Nov.

Blue-winged Teal: max 64 ULLWMA 3 Oct; last PRWMA 24 Oct.

N. Shoveler: 2 PRWMA 2, 24 Oct; 2 ULLWMA 3 Oct.

N. Pintail: max 34 PRWMA 24 Oct.

Green-winged Teal: max 143 WP 17 Oct.

Redhead: 365 WHWMA 8 Nov.

Ring-necked Duck: 1040 ULLWMA 25 Oct; 1290 WHWMA 13 Nov.

Greater Scaup: 2013 CV 12 Oct; no reports from BRB where Regional high counts normally occur.

Lesser Scaup: max 168 PRWMA 11 Nov.

King Eider: 5 MP 30 Nov (JB).

Surf Scoter: arr 2 GPSP 15 Oct; 2 CCSP 13 Nov.

White-winged Scoter: arr CV 12 Oct; 40 MP 22 Oct; 170 MP 30 Nov.

Black Scoter: 6 Raquette River T Potsdam 22 Oct (CS); 3 Black River T Champion 24 Oct & 58 same location 2 Nov (MJ); 130 ULLWMA 2 Nov (JB); Norwood L T Potsdam 13 Nov (JC); 38 CCSP 29 Nov (JB); 6 additional reports 1-10 L Ontario and SLR 22 Oct thru.

Long-tailed Duck: max 1200 MP 30 Nov.

Bufflehead: arr FD 8 Oct, early (JB).

Com. Goldeneye: arr Pt. Salubrious 14 Oct; max 275 SLR near Eisenhower Lock 21 Nov.

Hooded Merganser: max 92 WHWMA 13 Nov; numbers lower than recent falls.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 210 Thousand Islands SP 19 Nov.

Red-throated Loon: SBSP 20 Nov.

Com. Loon: max 33 SLR Waddington & Massena 8 Nov.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 96 ULLWMA 3 Sep.

Horned Grebe: max 16 PtPen 21 Nov.

Red-necked Grebe: TP 15 Oct & 11 Nov; 1-2 per day Barnhart Island 8 Nov thru; 3 CCSP 8 Nov; MP 9 Nov; Leishman Pt T Waddington 13 Nov; 2 PtPen 21 Nov.

Am. Bittern: last PRWMA 24 Oct.

Great Egret: max 186 WS 3 Sep (RS), new Regional high; last Dekalb 30 Sep.

Green Heron: last Dekalb 13 Sep.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 5 WS 3 Sep.

Turkey Vulture: scarce after 24 Oct.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: last Wellesley Is. 15 Sep.

N. Harrier: 1-5 per day thru.
Rough-legged Hawk: arr Hounsfield Sep 17 (GS), early; next reports 15 Oct when arrived in numbers.
Golden Eagle: ad FD 14 Oct; imm chasing imm Bald Eagle FD 2 Nov; imm T Colton 13 Nov.
Merlin: T Champion 25 Sep; FD 5 Oct.
Peregrine Falcon: ED 18 Sep; PtPen 29 Sep; FD 1 Oct; PRWMA 24 Oct; Galop Is SLR 22 Nov.
Com. Moorhen: max 14 ULLWMA 12 Sep; last PRWMA 24 Oct.
Am. Coot: 1-2 per day ULLWMA 6 - 25 Oct; many fewer than previous two falls.
Black-bellied Plover: 6 ED 7 Sep.
Am. Golden-Plover: 11 in harvested cornfield T Louisville 27 Sep; FD 1 Oct.
Semipalmated Plover: max 5 ED 7 Sep.
Killdeer: last ED 17 Oct.
Spotted Sandpiper: last ED 18 Sep.
Solitary Sandpiper: last FD 30 Sep.
Greater Yellowlegs: max 7 Dekalb 30 Sep; last WHWMA 23 Oct.
Lesser Yellowlegs: max 4 ULLWMA 3 Sep; last Dekalb 24 Sep.
Whimbrel: ED 8 Sep.
Ruddy Turnstone: 2 ED 8 Sep.
Sanderling: 25+ ED 8 Sep.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 3 ED 11 Sep.
Least Sandpiper: last Dekalb 18 Sep.
Pectoral Sandpiper: max 6 ULLWMA 20 Oct.
Dunlin: 24 WP 17 Oct.
Short-billed Dowitcher: singles ED 11 & 18 Sep.
Am. Woodcock: max 20+ FD 22 Sep.
Red Phalarope: flying past CCSP 1 Nov (JB).
Bonaparte's Gull: max 93 PtPen 20 Nov.
Caspian Tern: last WP 13 Sep.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

E. Screech-Owl: Dekalb 18 Nov.
Short-eared Owl: 6-8 per day CV mid-Nov thru.
Com. Nighthawk: 2 Dekalb 2 Sep, only report.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last FD 15 Sep.
Belted Kingfisher: scarce after 17 Nov.
Red-headed Woodpecker: last FD 1 Sep.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: Madrid 21 Nov.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: last FD 1 Oct.
Black-backed Woodpecker: max 3 ML 9 Sep.
N. Flicker: scarce after mid-Oct.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: last FD 16 Sep.
Alder Flycatcher: last FD 8 Sep.
Least Flycatcher: last 2 FD 30 Sep.

E. Phoebe: last SBSP 16 Oct.
E. Kingbird: last ICNC 3 Sep.
N. Shrike: arr FD 3 Nov.
Blue-headed Vireo: last PRGC 9 Oct.
Warbling Vireo: last PRGC 9 Oct.
Philadelphia Vireo: 2 FD 14 Sep; FD 21, 24 Sep.
Red-eyed Vireo: last FD 24 Sep.
Gray Jay: max 4 ML 19 Oct.
Horned Lark: 80 Canton 22 Nov.
Tree Swallow: max 700-800 PtPen 26 Sep; last ULLWMA 12 Oct.
Barn Swallow: last ULLWMA 12 Sep.
Tufted Titmouse: FD 22 Oct; most records this location Oct & Nov.
Carolina Wren: CV 17 Oct.
House Wren: last FD 5 Oct.
Winter Wren: scarce after 25 Oct.
Sedge Wren: last FD 9 Sep.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr ED 25 Sep.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr FD 16 Sep; last ED 22 Oct.
E. Bluebird: scarce after 10 Nov.
Veery: last FD 24 Sep.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: ED 1 Oct.
Swainson's Thrush: last FD 19 Oct.
Hermit Thrush: last PtPen 2 Nov.
Wood Thrush: last FD 24 Sep.
Am. Robin: peak movement 21 - 25 Oct.
Gray Catbird: last ICNC 10 Oct.
Brown Thrasher: last FD 28 Sep.
Am. Pipit: 24 FD 2 Nov; 20 FD 3 Nov, many reports 1-12 per day 14 Sep - 3 Nov.
Cedar Waxwing: max 50+ Henderson 20 Nov.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: last FD 10 Sep.
Tennessee Warbler: last ED 1 Oct.
Orange-crowned Warbler: ICNC 26 Sep & 10 Oct (JB); FD 28 Sep (JB); Potsdam 29 Sep & 2 Oct (JC); 2 FD 8 Oct; PRGC 9 Oct (JB).
Nashville Warbler: last ICNC 10 Oct.
N. Parula: last FD 30 Sep.
Yellow Warbler: last FD 22 Sep.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: last FD 17 Sep.
Magnolia Warbler: last ED 1 Oct.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: last T Fine 4 Oct.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: last FD 30 Oct.
Black-throated Green Warbler: last FD 1 Oct.
Blackburnian Warbler: last FD 14 Sep.
Pine Warbler: last FD 5 Oct.
Palm Warbler: last FD 5 Oct.
Bay-breasted Warbler: last FD 14 Sep.
Blackpoll Warbler: last FD 8 Oct.
Black-and-white Warbler: last FD 9 Sep.
Am. Redstart: last ED 1 Oct.

Ovenbird: last FD 17 Sep.
N. Waterthrush: last FD 10 Sep.
Mourning Warbler: last FD 8 Sep.
Com. Yellowthroat: last Potsdam 16 Oct.
Wilson's Warbler: last FD 30 Sep.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: last FD 14 Oct.
Am. Tree Sparrow: arr ICNC 25 Oct.
Chipping Sparrow: last FD 19 Oct.
Clay-colored Sparrow: none found on regular searches FD where numerous reports 2008 to early Oct.
Field Sparrow: last FD 20 Oct.
Vesper Sparrow: last FD 15 Oct.
Savannah Sparrow: last FD 29 Oct.
Henslow's Sparrow: FD 9 Sep, only report (JB).
Fox Sparrow: arr ICNC 27 Sep; last FD 9 Nov.
Song Sparrow: scarce after 2 Nov.
Lincoln's Sparrow: 1-3 per day FD 9 Sep - 29 Oct; 2 Potsdam 24 Sep; Potsdam 27 Sep.
Swamp Sparrow: last FD 29 Oct.
White-throated Sparrow: scarce after 2 Nov.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr ICNC 26 Sep; last FD 29 Oct.
Dark-eyed Junco: arr FD 14 Sep; migrants generally in lower than usual numbers.
Lapland Longspur: arr FD 21 Oct.
Snow Bunting: arr PRGC 23 Oct.
Scarlet Tanager: last Potsdam 27 Sep.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last FD 24 Sep.
Indigo Bunting: last FD 24 Sep.
DICKCISSEL (R6): FD 24 Sep (JB).
Bobolink: last FD 17 Sep.
E. Meadowlark: scarce after 24 Oct.
Rusty Blackbird: arr ICNC 20 Sep; max 330 ICNC 26 Sep, early for so many; last 35 PRGC 7 Nov.
Com. Grackle: max 6000 Leray 24 Oct.
Baltimore Oriole: last FD 8 Sep.
Purple Finch: many moving thru Oct; scarce after 10 Nov.
Red Crossbill: 2 FD 24 Nov, only report.
White-winged Crossbill: FD 10 Nov, only report.
Pine Siskin: "few" Fine 11 Oct; few other reports.

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REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

Gary N. Lee

P.O. Box 302, 116 Limekiln Lake Road, Inlet, N.Y. 13360
 eightacrewoodmouse@hotmail.com

The cloudy wet weather that was here all summer continued into the fall, with temperatures in the 40s and 50s most mornings in September. Highs reached 75°F in Saranac Lake and 77° in Plattsburgh on the 4th after starting in the low thirties. Then temperatures reversed themselves in these places on the 21st. There was frost in Saranac Lake on the 26th, with the temperature dropping to 24°, and at Inlet on the 19th and 20th. I was still cutting flowers for my table into November. There was a thunderstorm in Saranac Lake on 28 September which dropped an inch of rain. Snow on 30 September coated the High Peaks, with pretty fall leaves continuing below the snow line. October was cooler but still only a couple of mornings had frost. There was 2" of snow in Blue Mountain Lake on the 14th, but only flurries and dusting in Inlet. Nearly an inch of rain fell in Plattsburgh the 24th. A total of 3.76" of rainfall was recorded in Saranac Lake for the month. November had some cold mornings, many in the teens. A coating of snow fell over the entire area on the 6th, but Newcomb recorded only an inch, which was mostly gone in two days as temperatures rose to the high 60s

on the 8th and 9th. Nearly an inch of rain fell on the 14th, but the total for the month was only 2" in Saranac Lake. A cold rain the last day of the month, which turned to wet snow late in the day, pushed many lingering birds to feeders.

The water level on Lake Champlain was at 96.52' on 1 September and continued down to a low of 95.25' on 20 October. From there it rose gradually back up to a high of 96.95' at the end of November.

There was very little wild food in the woods, only a good crop of acorns in the Champlain Valley. There were no cherries and beechnuts, very few wild berries except for mountain ash along lake shores, and some seeds on striped maples and yellow birch, which kept goldfinch around. Evergreens were almost devoid of cones. Many of the berry eaters left early, and some of the bug eaters hung around with the moderate temperatures. About the only birds you could readily find on a walk in the woods at the end of the period were woodpeckers; mixed flocks of chickadees, nuthatches, and kinglets; and possibly a grouse flushing from eating buds in a yellow birch. Water birds came through in good numbers, but I think there are many more stacked up to the north of us yet.

The sixth great lake, Lake Champlain, is still a magnet for southbound water birds and shore birds. Some even wander from west of us, like the **Western /Clark's Grebe** found by Judith Heintz on 29 November at Ausable Point, only the third Clinton County record. The **Ross's Goose** and **Cackling Goose** found on Stafford Road, Beekmantown, on 2 November by Bill Krueger and Charles Mitchell were also good finds. Seeing over 100 Horned Larks on 11 November on North Farm Road and finding one Lapland Longspur among them was neat for Melanie McCormack. Dan Nickerson's 600 Black Scoters at Essex Ferry on 23 October must have been a thrill. A call from Nora Burke at the marina on Raquette Lake about a possible Willet that had been in her yard for a week had me out the door with camera and binocs and there in fifteen minutes. When I arrived, she said the bird was just at the launch site five minutes ago. Searching the shoreline I found her bird, an American Golden-Plover, on the front lawn not five feet from Route 28. I got some good pictures and left the bird where I found it. It stayed for three more days, a new bird for my Hamilton County list and only the second for the county, with the first at Little Tupper Lake on 14 September 1961.

Only 151 species were reported this season, far below the high of 194 set in 2007.

Retired Forest Ranger Robert Hendrickson passed away on 11 January 2010 after a battle with cancer. Bob, who lived with his wife, Leslie, in Brantingham, holds the list for the most birds seen in Lewis County. He worked several survey blocks in the first NYS Bird Breeding Atlas. He will be missed by the birding community in the Western Adirondacks.

CONTRIBUTORS

Steve Abrahamse, Mary Anne Allen, Jeffery Bolsinger, Sarah Conley, Charlotte Demers, Brian Davis, Elizabeth Fitts, Josh Frere, Larry Hall, Judith F. Heintz, Will Holmlund, Bill Krueger, William Labes, Robert LaCelle III, Gary N. Lee,

Lawrence Master, Brian McAllister, Melanie A. McCormack, Bob McGuire, Charlie Mitchell, Mike & Wanda Moccio, Dan Nickerson, Nancy Olsen, John O'Neil, John Peterson, Bill Purcell, Nancy Rogers, Dana Rohleder, Tanner Steeves, Eric K. Teed, John & Patricia Thaxton, Cecelia Wojciukiewicz.

ABBREVIATIONS

AP – Ausable Point; CB – Cumberland Bay; CR – Chazy Riverlands, ET – Elizabetown; EF – Essex Ferry; FB – Ferd's Bog; LP – Lake Placid; MRRA – Moose River Recreation Area; NP – Noblewood Park; PtR – Pt auRoche SP; PL – Piseco Lake; PLa – Plattsburgh; PK – Port Kent; PPI – Powley Place; PP – Putnam Pond; WD – Wilcox Dock; WP – Westport.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: arr 2 PtR 2 & 12 Nov (BK), both had yellow neck bands; 1200 PL 15 Nov (MM); max 1000's Monty Bay 8 Nov (NO).

ROSS'S GOOSE: Stafford Rd. Beekmantown 2 Nov (CM), only report, great find.

CAKCLING GOOSE: 2 Stafford Rd, Beekmantown 2 Nov (BK, CM), another great find.

Canada Goose: 900 Angleville 13 Oct (BP); max 7,500 WP 29 Nov (J&PT).

Brant: PL 29 Sep (CM); 67 PI 3 Oct (BP).

Wood Duck: PP 19 Oct; PtR 26 Oct (NO).

Gadwall: 2 PL 13 Oct (BP).

Am. Wigeon: 5 WP 10 Oct (J&PT) only report.

Am. Black Duck: 6 Rt. 10 HAMI 29 Sep (JF, LH); 6 WP 23 Oct (DN); 6 PtR 1 Nov (MM).

Mallard: 30 WP 23 Oct (DN,EF); 50 WP 29 Nov (J&PT).

N. Shoveler: 7 CR 29 Sep (BK).

N. Pintail: 4 CR 29 Sep (BK); 1 AP 20 Oct (JH), nice finds.

Green-winged Teal: 2 CB 13 Oct (BP).

Redhead: 2 PL 2 Nov (BK, CM).

Ring-necked Duck: 6 PL 14 Oct (BP).

Greater Scaup: WD 1 Oct (BK); 300 PL 13 Oct (BP); NP 26 Oct (JB).

Lesser Scaup: 300 PL 13 Oct (BP); 700 PL 13 Oct mixed flock (BP); 1900 PL 14 Oct (BP); 3,000 PL 14 Oct (BK, CM).

Surf Scoter: 10 EF 23 Oct (DN), nice find.

White-winged Scoter: 4 PL 3 Oct (BP); 3 PL 4 Oct (BP); 3 NP 26 Oct (JB), also nice.

Black Scoter: 600 EF 23 Oct (EF); 275 EF 11 Nov (ET), high numbers.

Long-tailed Duck: EF 23 Oct (DN); PtR 24 Oct & WD 26 Oct (NO); 50 NP 26 Oct (BP).

Bufflehead: 33 NP 26 Oct (JB); AP 1 Nov (JH); PK 29 Nov (JH); 25 WP 7 Nov (J&PT).

Com. Goldeneye: 45 NP 26 Oct (JB); PK 29 Nov (DR); 113 WP 29 Nov (J&PT).

Hooded Merganser: 12 WP 10 Oct; 4 WP 29 Nov (J&PT); LP 5 Nov (LM); Fifth Lake 15 Nov (GL).

Com. Merganser: 6 PL 10 Sep (BP); 6 EF 23 Oct DN; 2 PLa 30 Sep (JF,LH); Wakely Pd 2 Nov, 4 Shallow Lake 15 Nov (GL); LP 5 Nov (LM).

Red-breasted Merganser: NP 12 Oct; 5 NP 29 Oct (JB,BP); 9 Saranac River 13 Oct (BP).

Ruddy Duck: Hoffmeister 7 Oct (LH), only other HAMI reports Mud L 9 Sep 2003 & Lake Eaton 22 Apr 2008.

Ring-necked Pheasant: Lake Alice 30 Sep (NO), 3 releases; Essex 18 Oct (J&PT).

Ruffed Grouse: Keene 15 Sep (J&PT); Powley Rd 21 Oct (LH); MRRA 26 Nov (GL).

Wild Turkey: French Rd 7 Oct (LH); 9 Altona 14 Oct (BP); 14 Inlet 30 Nov (GL).

Com. Loon: ad & 1 yng Sagamore L 6 Sep (GL), 1st report from there; 10 AP 27 Oct (JB); max 20 PtR 29 Oct (BK,CM).

Pied-billed Grebe: 7 AP 26 Oct (JB); 7 Wickham Marsh 29 Oct (NO); 8 AP 1 Nov (MM).

Horned Grebe: 77 NP 26 Oct (JB); 20+ AP 15 Nov (BK, CM); 3 CR 17 Nov (NO).

Red-necked Grebe: Wallon's Bay 23 Oct (DN); 2 NP 26 Oct (JB); PLa 6 Nov (JF,LH).

WESTERN/CLARKS GREBE: AP 29 Nov (JH), 3rd CLIN record.

Double-crested Cormorant: 32 Chellis Bay 13 Oct (BP); AP 1 Nov (MM).

Great Blue Heron: 3 AP 1 Nov (MM); LP 5 Nov (LM); Inlet 3 Nov (GL); AP 22 Nov (J&PT).

Turkey Vulture: Witherbee 21 Sep (MA,CW); Angelville & Ausable Chasm 13 Oct (BP).

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: Round Lake near Little Tupper 3 Sep; Lake Everest near Wilmington 4 Sep (J&PT).

Bald Eagle: LP 11 Oct (BP); LP 5 Nov (LM); 2 WP 29 Nov (J&PT).

N. Harrier: Sacandaga L 13 Sep (SA) & 3 Oct (JO); Cumberland Head 3 Oct (SJ,BK); PL 13 Oct (BP); RT 9 & PtR Rd 5 Nov (BK,CM).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 2 Osgood & Jones Rd 6 Sep (J&PT); Bangor 14 Oct (BP); AP 1 Nov (MM).

Cooper's Hawk: CR 6 Sep (BK); PtR 13 Oct (BP); LP 5 Nov (LM); Peru 6 Nov (EF).

N. Goshawk: Inlet 18 Oct (GL), only report.

Broad-winged Hawk: Keene 5, 7 Sep; Madawaska 7 Sep; ET 8 Sep (J&PT); Witherbee 14 Sep (MA,CW).

Red-tailed Hawk: NP 3 Oct, Keene 12 Oct; Northway Keesville 22 Nov (J&PT); NP 26 Oct (JB); Pt R 1 Nov (MM).

Rough-legged Hawk: Exit 39 on I-87 6 Nov (BK, CM); I-87 28 Nov (NO); WP18, 29 Oct (J&PT).

Golden Eagle: Noonmark Mtn 16 Oct (ET), only report.

Am. Kestrel: Averyville 11 Oct (BP).

Merlin: CR 1 Oct (BK, NO); LP 11 Oct (BP); Belmont 17 Oct (NR); AP 1 Nov (MM,NO).

Peregrine Falcon: NP 12 Oct (BP); WP 7 Nov (J&PT).

Com. Moorhen: ad & 2 yng CR 1 Sep (BK).

Am. Coot: AP 20 Oct (JH).

Black-bellied Plover: NP 12 Oct (JB); Plattsburgh Bay 15 Oct (BK).

Am. Golden-Plover: Raquette L 9 Sep (GL), 2nd HAMI record, last was Little Tupper L 14 Sep 1961.

Semipalmated Plover: CR 1 Sep (BK); NP 12 Oct (J&PT).

Killdeer: 6 NP 3 Oct (J&PT), only report.

Spotted Sandpiper: small pond end of Jackrabbit Trail 5 Sep; Inlet Osgood Pd 20 Sep (J&PT).

Solitary Sandpiper: Ausable R, Keene 14 Sep (J&PT).

Greater Yellowlegs: 2 CR 1 Oct (BK, NO); Plattsburgh Bay 15 Oct (BK, CM); PtR 24 Oct (BK, NO); AP 27 Oct (JB).

Lesser Yellowlegs: CR 1 Sep (BK); PtR 24 Oct (BK, NO).

Sanderling: NP 12 Sep (J&PT), only report.

Least Sandpiper: CR 21 Sep (BK).

Pectoral Sandpiper: CR 21 Sep (BK); NP 18 Oct (J&PT).

Dunlin: 6 CR 1 Oct (BK, NO); PL 14 Oct (BP); max 38 Monty Bay 4 Nov (BK,CM).

Wilson's Snipe: NP 12 Oct (BP).

Am. Woodcock: Limekiln L 4 Oct; Golden Beach 9 Oct (GL).

Bonaparte's Gull: 18 Chellis Bay &, 17 NP 13 Oct (BP); 15 WP 3 Oct (J&PT); 6 PtR 24 Oct (NO).

Ring-billed Gull: 200 WP 3 Oct, 7 Nov (J&PT); 530 AP 27 Oct (JB); 50 AP 1 Nov (MM).

Herring Gull: NP 18 Oct (J&PT); 78 AP 27 Oct (JB).

Great Black-backed Gull: 22 NP 18 Oct (J&PT); CR 24 Oct (NO); WP 25 Oct (DN); 4 AP 1 Nov (MM).

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Rock Pigeon: Deyo Rd. 13 Oct (BP).

Mourning Dove: Inlet 1 Nov (GL); 15 WP 22 Nov; 15 Wadhams 29 Nov (J&PT); 3-14 Witherbee 30 Nov (MA,CW).

E. Screech-Owl: Keene 20 Oct (J&PT).

Barred Owl: PP 19 Oct (MS, NO); Inlet 7 Sept, 4 Oct (GL).

Long-eared Owl: Witherbee 10 Oct (MA, CW).

N. Saw-whet Owl: Keene 11 Oct (J&PT).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Keene 3 Sep (J&PT); Sacandaga L 13 Sep (SA); Witherbee 19 Sep (CW).

Belted Kingfisher: 4 Osgood R 20 Sep (J&PT); PLA 30 Sep (JF, LH); PtR 13 Oct (BP); PP 19 Oct (MS, NO); Inlet 29 Oct; Wakely Pd. 2 Nov (GL).

Red-bellied Woodpecker: PL 6 Nov (MM), 2nd fall record CLIN, only report.

Black-backed Woodpecker: FB 12 Oct (BM); LP 5 Nov (LM); MRRA 22 Oct, 26 Nov; Browns Tract Stream 28 Sep (GL).

N. Flicker: 7 PP 9 Sep (JF, LH); ET 1 Sep (JP); Keene 12 Sep (J&PT); MRRA 1 Oct (GL).

Pileated Woodpecker: pr Keene 5-12 Sep (J&PT); PP 10 Oct (MS, NO); AP 20 Nov (DR); Inlet 7 Sept, 24 Nov (GL).

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

E. Phoebe: ET 1, 2 Sep (JP); Wickham Marsh 29 Sep (NO); PL 7 Oct (LH); Ausable Chasm 2 Oct (BD).

N. Shrike: CR 27 Oct (JB); AP 22 Nov (J&PT).

Blue Headed Vireo: PPl 9 Sep (JF, LH); Keene 14, 20, 24Sep, 1, 4 Oct (J&PT); Inlet 27 Sep; MRRA 1 Oct (GL).

Red-eyed Vireo: Keene 6 Sep (J&PT), only report.

Gray Jay: Oregon Plains 10 Oct (BJ); 3 FB 12 Oct (BM); 4 Sagamore Rd 6 Oct; MRRA 26 Nov (GL).

Blue Jay: 17 Clarojast 13 Oct (JH); 30 Inlet 30 Nov (GL).

Am. Crow: 15 Hoffmeister 7 Oct (LH).

Com. Raven: 10 kettling Keene 17 Oct (J&PT); 2 Inlet 30 Nov (GL).
Horned Lark: 100+ CR 8 Nov (MM), nice find.
Black-capped Chickadee: 15 NP 16 Oct (JB); 30 Inlet 30 Nov (GL).
Boreal Chickadee: PP 9 Oct (NO, MS), new location; 3 Rooster Comb-Keene Valley 8 Nov (J&PT).
Tufted Titmouse: ET 11 Sep (JP); PL 19 Sep (CM); Cumberland Head 26 Oct (NO); 3 Inlet 5 Oct (GL); NP 12, 26 Oct (BP, JB); PL 15 Nov (MM); 2 Witherbee 30 Nov (MA, CW), spreading out.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: 6 NP 26 Oct (JB); 2 Inlet 30 Nov (GL).
White-breasted Nuthatch: max 7 NP 26 Oct (JB).
Brown Creeper: 2 Powley Rd 13 Sep (SA); Inlet 27 Sep, 17 Nov (GL).
Carolina Wren: 2 FRAN 1 Sep (WH); WP 23 Oct (DN); AP 7 Nov (J&PT).
Golden-crowned Kinglet: 4 Jackrabbit Trail (J&PT); 2 Inlet 27 Sep, 29 Oct (GL); 6 PtR 12 Oct (BP).
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Keene 10 Oct (J&PT); 3 Pt R 13 Oct (BP).
E. Bluebird: ET 11 Sep (JP); 4 Keene 19 Oct (J&PT); NP 26 Oct (JB); Inlet 29 Oct (GL); AP 3 Nov (MM).
Swainson's Thrush: ET 1, 7 Sep (JP); Keene 1 Oct (J&PT).
Hermits Thrush: ET 3 Sep (JP); Keene 5, 14, 17, 21 Sep, 16 Oct (J&PT); Witherbee 4, 15 Oct (MA, CW); 3 AP 11 Oct (BP).
Am Robin: 105 Angleville & 45 PtR 13 Oct (BP); Inlet 26 Nov (GL).
Gray Catbird: Sacandaga L 13 Sep (SA); Sagamore Rd 6 Oct; Inlet 7 Oct (GL).
N. Mockingbird: PL 5 Nov (CM) only report.
European Starling: 450 Angleville 26 Oct (BP); Inlet 5, 7 Nov (GL).
Am Pipit: 45 Deyo Rd 13 Oct (BP); 5 CR 13 Oct (JH).
Bohemian Waxwing: 10 Paul Smith's 5 Nov (BM).
Cedar Waxwing: ET 11 Sep (JP); 22 Sacandaga R 13 Sep (SA); Ausable Marsh 26 Oct (JB).

WARBLERS

Nashville Warbler: Keene 17 Sep (J&PT); Clarojast 3 Oct (JH).
N. Parula: PPI 9 Sep (JF, LH).
Chestnut-sided Warbler: PPI 9 Sep (JF, LH).
Magnolia Warbler: Inlet 7 Sep (GL).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: Keene, 5, 6 Sep, Jackrabbit Trail 5 Sep (J&PT); Inlet 7, 18, 27 Sep (GL); Clarojast 3 Oct (JH).
Yellow-rumped Warbler: MRR 1 Oct (GL); 10-20 Coon Mtn 10 Oct; Keene 18 Oct (J&PT); Clarojast 3 Oct (JH); 6 NP 12 Oct (BP).
Black-throated Green Warbler: Keene 5 Sep (J&PT); PPI 9 Sep (JF, LH); Inlet 7, 24 Sep; MRR 1 Oct (GL).
Blackburnian Warbler: Adirondack L 4 Sep (TS).
Pine Warbler: ET 11 Sep (JP).
Bay-breasted Warbler: ET 11 Sep (JP).
Ovenbird: ET 5, 8 Sep (JP); Keene 12 Sep (J&PT).
Mourning Warbler: ET 1 Sep (JP).
Com. Yellowthroat: Keene 5 Sep, 10 Oct (J&PT); Sacandaga L 13 Sep (SA); Sagamore 21 Sep (GL).
Canada Warbler: PL 30 Sep (JF, LH).

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: PPI 3 Nov (LH); Inlet 8, 13 Nov (GL); WP 29 Nov (J&PT).
Chipping Sparrow: max 100 Keene 17 Sept (J&PT); 10 PL 7 Oct (LH); Inlet 1, 3, 6, 7 Oct (GL); 6 Econolodge, PL 13 Oct (BP).
Song Sparrow: Inlet 4, 31 Oct (GL); 7 PtR 13 Oct (BP); PtR & AP 1 Nov (JH).
Lincoln's Sparrow: Inlet 7, 23, 27 Sep, 16, 17, 19, 31 Oct, Browns Tract Stream 28 Sep (GL).
Swamp Sparrow: 6 PtR 3 Oct (BP); Browns Tract Stream 28 Sep (GL); Keene 10 Oct (J&PT).
White-throated Sparrow: 16 PtR 13 Oct (BP); Browns Tract Stream 28 Sept; Inlet 3-29 Oct (GL).
White-crowned Sparrow: Inlet 4-21 Oct (GL); 5 Keene 16 Oct (J&PT).
Dark-eyed Junco: 12 PtR 13 Oct (BP); Inlet 3-17 Oct (GL); many Keene 10 Sep, 1 Oct (J&PT).
Lapland Longspur: N. Farm Rd near CR 8 Nov (MM), great find among the Horned Larks.
Snow Bunting: 23 Morehouse 6 Nov (JF, LH); 11 NP 26 Oct (JB); 25 IL 30 Oct (M&WM); PL 24 Oct (NO).
N. Cardinal: FB 12 Oct (BM); PL 24 Oct (NO).
Red-winged Blackbird: 40 Angleville 13 Oct (BP); AP 1 Nov (JH); Inlet 7 Nov (GL).
Rusty Blackbird: 3 Sagamore Rd 6 Oct, Brooktrout L 12 Oct (GL); 8 AP 1 Nov (MM); 30 AP 7 Nov (J&PT); Wolf Lake-Newcomb 19 Nov (CD).
Com. Grackle: 15 ET 9 Sep (J&PT); 20 Inlet 21, 26, 31 Oct (GL).
Brown-headed Cowbird: Inlet 1 Oct (GL).

Purple Finch: Keene 16 Oct, 15 Nov (J&PT);
Clarojast 17 Oct (JH); Inlet 17 Oct (GL); NP 26
Oct (JB); Witherbee 29 Nov (MA, CW).

Pine Siskin: CR 27 Oct (JB); 3 Rooster Comb
8 Nov (J&PT).

Am. Goldfinch: Clarojast 17 Oct (JH), 7 NP 26
Oct (JB); 15 Keene Nov. (J&PT).

Evening Grosbeak: 4 & 5 Inlet 3 & 15 Nov
(GL); Keene 8 Nov (J&PT); 2-5 Witherbee 30
Nov (MA, CW); 40-50 LL 30 Nov (WL).

House Sparrow: Econolodge, PE 13 Oct (BP,
NO); Essex 5 Sept (LH).

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REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

Will Yandik

269 Schneider Road, Hudson NY 12534
wyandik@hotmail.com

Mild and overall calm weather characterized Fall 2009. September ended largely dry and clear with 1.58 fewer inches of rain than average. October cooled slightly and measured almost an inch more rain than average. Roughly half the days in October experienced light to moderate precipitation. The season's first frost touched lower and middle elevations on 12 October, however most of the second half of the month remained frost free and greenery persisted until the end of the season. November ended very mild, 4.1° F above average, with most daytime highs in the upper 50s. More than half of the days in November remained entirely above freezing, the ground remained frost free, and no snow fell during the season. Fruit and nut crops appeared abundant through most of the Region and observers reported reduced activity at bird feeders.

Typical fall numbers of waterfowl moved through the Region. Highlights include six Cackling Geese in Greene County, all three scoter species, an unusual maximum of 25 Long-tailed Ducks on Saratoga Lake, a Barrow's Goldeneye on Tomhannock Reservoir, and relatively large single location counts of three Red-throated Loons and four Red-necked Grebes.

Local vet and bird photographer Gordie Ellmers experienced the rare treat of a **Red Phalarope** on the Hudson River at the Fort Miller hydro station. The bird was observed near a fishing access point near a dam, where the bird would fly up river, feed as it floated down to the dam, and then repeat the foraging trick by flying upriver again. A single **Long-billed Dowitcher** in the artificially-created drainages on the Cocksackie grasslands in Greene County was also an unexpected visitor.

Driving along the NYS Thruway, Rich Guthrie noticed a strange hawk hopping along the median foraging for grasshoppers like a turkey; he snapped some photos, shrugged and continued on his way. A few days later, after examining the photos and discussing the pics with other birders, the evidence suggested a surprising immature **Swainson's Hawk**. This represents the first

Region 8 record for this species, and dozens of birders made the trip to see it. It perched cooperatively in the area on road signs and utility poles, and birders often winced to see it fly fearlessly in front of speeding trucks and cars. It remained faithfully at its roadside edge for 10 days before disappearing, presumably flying south since no carcass was found after several observers combed the area.

The seasonal list includes many late reports of Ruby-throated Hummingbird this year, including the very late date of 14 November reported by Deb Oare in Fonda, Montgomery County, a near record late date for New York State. The bird was photographed and verified by Bob Yunick. Bob also reported a female that he had originally banded in Saratoga County in 2001 that he recaptured this year, matching the Bird Banding Lab's North American age record for this species at nine years, zero months.

An unremarkable passerine migration occurred with few surprises. Anecdotally there appeared more of the spruce budworm specialist warblers, namely more reports of Cape May and Bay-breasted Warblers than typical falls. A late Black-throated Blue Warbler in Saratoga County on 22 Nov is a near record late date.

CONTRIBUTORS

Alan Devoe Bird Club monthly sighting reports, Larry Alden, Dave Baim, Hope Batchellor, Mona Bearor, Mimi Brausch, Nancy Castillo, Jim Coe, Gerry Colborn, Tim Colburn, Bill Cook, Tim Dormady, Gordon Ellmers, Larry Federman, Corey Finger, Tom Fiore, Gary Goodness, Elizabeth Grace, Bernie Grossman, Richard Guthrie, David Harrison, Ron Harrower, John Hershey, Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club's Birdline of Eastern New York, John Kent, Nancy Kern, Heidi Klinowski, Eric Krantz, Bill Lee, Larry Main, Mitzi Lobdell, Andrew Mason, Roger Miller, Jeff Nadler, Gail & Rich Nord, Deb Oare, Marne Onderdonk, Tom Palmer, Joe Peters, John Piwowarski, Barb Putnam, Bob Ramonowski, Will Raup, Tom Salo, John Saville, Susan Scheck, Scot Stoner, Bill & Marion Ulmer, Carol & Owen Whitby, Phil Whitney, T.L. Williams, Chad Witko, Will Yandik, Matt Young, Robert Yunick.

ABBREVIATIONS

AUS – T Austerlitz COLU; COX – T Cocksackie GREE; FLO – T Florida MONT; FtE – T Fort Edwards WASH; GL – Galway L SARA; HHW – Helderbergs hawk watch ALBA; HR – Hudson Ri; MR – Mohawk Ri; PR – Partridge Run WMA ALBA; SL – Saratoga L SARA; TR – Tomhannock Res RENS; VF – Vischer's Ferry SARA.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: max 300 TR 29 Nov.

Brant: max 100 Five Rivers ALBA 12 Oct.

CKACKLING GOOSE: 6 COX Boat Launch 27 Oct.

Wood Duck: last Livingston COLU 28 Nov.

Gadwall: max 12 Stanton Pd ALBA 28 Sep.

Am. Wigeon: max 25 Stanton Pd ALBA 28 Sep.
Blue-winged Teal: max 30 VF 24 Sep.
N. Shoveler: VF 4 Nov.
N. Pintail: max 10 VF 28 Nov.
Green-winged Teal: max 35 VF 9 Oct.
Redhead: SL 2 Nov; max 3 GL 27 Nov.
Ring-necked Duck: max 350 Loughberry L SARA 15 Oct.
Greater Scaup: TR 26 Nov.
Surf Scoter: max 14 Myosotis L ALBA 14 Oct.
White-winged Scoter: 2 SL 2 Nov; Loughberry L SARA 8 Nov.
Black Scoter: max 17 Myosotis L ALBA 14 Oct.
Long-tailed Duck: max 25 SL 2 Nov.
Com. Goldeneye: max 138 TR 21 Nov.
Barrow's Goldeneye: TR 12 Nov.
Hooded Merganser: max 100+ GL 29 Nov.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 14 SL 18 Oct.
Ruddy Duck: max 100 COX res 4 Nov.
Ruffed Grouse: AUS 4 Sep; Jenny L SARA 28 Sep.
Com. Loon: max 6 L George WARR 26 Nov.
Red-throated Loon: Hudson COLU 25 Oct; 3 TR 2 Nov thru.
Pied-billed Grebe: max 22 SL 9 Nov; last AUS 29 Nov.
Horned Grebe: max 5 SL 2 Nov.
Red-necked Grebe: max 4 TR 15 Nov.
Double-crested Cormorant: last HR COLU 18 Nov.
Am. Bittern: Last COX grasslands 1 Nov.
Green Heron: last Ghent COLU 3 Oct.
Great Egret: 2 Peebles I SARA 17 Sep; Meadowdale ALBA 6 Oct; last Bells Pd COLU 11 Nov; 8 reports of singles in Sep.
Snowy Egret: AUS 19-24 Sep.
Black Vulture: max 7 New Scotland ALBA 23 Oct; 2 Ravena ALBA 6 Nov; 2 Guilderland ALBA 11 Nov; 5 reports in COLU thru.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: last GL 28 Nov.
Bald Eagle: max 5 Stockport COLU 21 Oct.
N. Harrier: max 4 COX grasslands 28 Sep.
N. Goshawk: 2 HHW 8 Oct.
Red-shouldered Hawk: 4-mile Point GREE 12 Sep; HHW 1 Nov.
Broad-winged Hawk: max 246 HHW 15 Sep.
SWAINSON'S HAWK: New Baltimore GREE 3-14 Oct, 1st Regional record (RG); see Note, pp. 24-25.
Rough-legged Hawk: arr Rensselaerville ALBA 14 Nov.
Golden Eagle: Five Rivers ALBA 25 Oct; HHW 1 Nov.

Merlin: max 7 HHW 8 Oct; SL 18 Oct; New Baltimore GREE 12 Nov; Cohoes ALBA 22 Nov.

Am. Coot: max 4 Crescent ALBA 2 Nov.
Semipalmated Plover: COX grasslands 12 Sep.
Killdeer: last 5 Gansevoort SARA 22 Oct.
Solitary Sandpiper: last VF 22 Oct.
Greater Yellowlegs: last 2 COX grasslands 8 Oct.
Lesser Yellowlegs: last VF 22 Oct.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: last VF 22 Oct.
Pectoral Sandpiper: COX grasslands 5 Sep-4 Oct.
Dunlin: Stockport COLU 21 Oct.
LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER: COX grasslands 24-30 Sep (RG).
Wilson's Snipe: last COX grasslands 3 Nov.
Am. Woodcock: max 6 FLO 30 Oct.
RED PHALAROPE: E Greenbush RENS 15 Oct (GE).
Bonaparte's Gull: L George WARR 8 Sep.
Iceland Gull: GL 27 Nov; 2 COX boat launch 30 Nov.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: last HHW 14 Sep.
Long-eared Owl: 3 Rensselaerville ALBA 11-29 Nov.
N. Saw-whet Owl: downtown SCHE 18 Nov, struck library window; Galway SARA 29 Nov.
Com. Nighthawk: last Glens Falls WARR 8 Sep.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last Fonda MONT 14 Nov, very late; 4 reports of singles in Oct.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: last Clermont COLU 12 Sep.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Meadowdale ALBA 7 Sep.
E. Phoebe: last VF 29 Oct.
N. Shrike: 7 reports of single birds Oct thru.
White-eyed Vireo: TR 11 Nov.
Yellow-throated Vireo: last PR 13 Sep.
Blue-headed Vireo: last AUS 15 Oct.
Warbling Vireo: last VF 29 Sep.
Philadelphia Vireo: Five Rivers ALBA 12 Sep; VF 14 Sep; Petersburg RENS 14 Sep.
Red-eyed Vireo: last Albany 11 Oct.
Tree Swallow: last Germantown COLU 22 Oct.
Barn Swallow: last Hillsdale COLU 7 Sep.
Swainson's Thrush: last FLO 2 Oct.
Wood Thrush: last Galway SARA 30 Sep.
Brown Thrasher: last Troy RENS 11 Oct.
Am. Pipit: max 32 COX grasslands 17 Oct.

WARBLERS

Tennessee Warbler: last Five Rivers ALBA 4 Oct.

Orange-crowned Warbler: PR 4 Oct; VF 6 Oct.

Nashville Warbler: last Niskayuna SCHE 22 Oct.

N. Parula: last Petersburg RENS 27 Sep.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: last Guilderland ALBA 11 Sep.

Magnolia Warbler: last Five Rivers ALBA 3 Oct.

Cape May Warbler: last COX cemetery 16 Sep.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: last Galway SARA 22 Nov, very late.

Black-throated Green Warbler: last Hillsdale COLU 4 Oct.

Blackburnian Warbler: last VF 26 Sep.

Prairie Warbler: last FLO 16 Sep.

Palm Warbler: last Livingston COLU 23 Nov.

Bay-breasted Warbler: 3 PR 5 Sep; Petersburg RENS 22 Sep; Five Rivers ALBA 27 Sep; AUS 29 Sep.

Blackpoll Warbler: last Palenville GREE 3 Oct.

Black-and-White Warbler: Petersburg RENS 8 Sep.

Am. Redstart: last New Salem ALBA 3 Oct.

Ovenbird: last Haines Falls GREE 27 Sep.

N. Waterthrush: last PR 5 Sep.

Mourning Warbler: Petersburg RENS 20 Sep.

Wilson's Warbler: last VF 29 Sep.

Canada Warbler: last 4-mile Point GREE 29 Sep.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Chipping Sparrow: last Taghkanic COLU 29 Nov.

Field Sparrow: last Meadowdale ALBA 14 Oct.

Vesper Sparrow: AUS 4 Sep.

Grasshopper Sparrow: FLO 23 Sep.

Lincoln's Sparrow: max 21 FLO 23 Sep.

Scarlet Tanager: last Clermont COLU 10 Oct.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last Providence SARA 12 Oct.

Indigo Bunting: last Gansevoort SARA 3 Oct.

Bobolink: max 10 FLO 1 Sep.

E. Meadowlark: last Pittstown RENS 12 Nov.

Rusty Blackbird: max 550 Neiber Swamp Livingston COLU 26 Sep; 100 VF 29 Oct.

Red Crossbill: 3 Jenny L SARA 4-13 Sep; 2

Burnt-Rossman Hills SF SCHO 7 Nov.

Com. Redpoll: AUS 15 Oct, only report.

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REGION 9—HUDSON-DELAWARE

Michael Bochnik

70 Hutchinson Boulevard, Mt Vernon, NY 10552

BochnikM@cs.com

The season started just after the passage of a cold front as demonstrated by the eighteen species of warblers that were found along the trails at Hook Mountain on 2 September. These included Wilson's, Blackpoll, and Tennessee. We enjoyed cool dry weather for most of the month, as September came in 1° cooler than normal with only 1.6" of rain. October had near normal temperatures and was slightly wetter than average. A nor'easter, born from the remnants of Tropical Storm Ida, just missed the Region on 13-14 November. It did bring a flooding storm surge into Long Island Sound and up into the Hudson River. November averaged much warmer than normal due to the lack of any cold spells, and it was very wet. It was 4.6° warmer, and 2 inches more than normal rain fell.

On 10 November, between 9 and 10 AM, Carol Weiss spotted a grebe south of Piermont Pier, a large black and white grebe which looked too large to be a horned grebe. The chin and the front of the neck were white and the back of the neck and the nape and the crown of the head were sharply black. The black came across the face and covered the eye. She returned the next day with a camera, scope and field guide, and confirmed that the grebe was indeed a Western Grebe, a first record for Rockland County. Many people were fortunate to see the grebe on the 12th and 13th, as it disappeared during the strong nor'easter on the 14th. Birders that day were greeted by a Horned Grebe off the pier. A Western Grebe appeared Sunday the 15th off New Jersey and may be the same bird.

Melissa Gillmer and Jen Conrad rescued a "loon" on 29 November that had been clipped by a motorcyclist on Tiorati Brook Rd. about a mile east and downhill of the Tiorati dam in Harriman State Park. It turned out to be a juvenile Northern Gannet, likely blown inland during the windy weather the day before. It appeared to be in decent health and recovered at the Raptor Trust in NJ, after which it was ready for release.

Record Bald Eagle numbers sweetened Mount Peter's 52nd annual fall hawk watch. With the steady increase each year in both breeding pairs in the Region and wintering numbers, it's not too surprising that most hawk watches had record totals for Bald Eagles this season: Chestnut Ridge 64, Hook Mountain 125, Lenoir 77, and Mt. Peter 45.

Broad-winged Hawks peaked on two days at two of our hawk watches, but at a different date pair for each. Mt. Peter's big days were 16 and 18 September, and Hook Mt.'s were the 15th and 20th. The Summitville and Lenoir watches each peaked only on 18 September.

Allan Spivack and Joan Mastero observed a Purple Sandpiper on the rock jetty immediately south of the Saugerties Lighthouse on 28 November for Ulster County's first record.

Mark DeDea reported two Eurasian Collared-Doves at the Forsyth Nature Center, Kingston, on 4 October. With the increase in sightings in the northeast and an accepted record by NYSARC from Orange County in 2003, these may not have been escapes. A very late Yellow Warbler was reported from Marshlands Conservancy in Rye by Tom Burke on 16 November. Carol Weiss counted 300 Rusty Blackbird passing over Hook Mountain on 9 November.

A note on two birds not seen in the Region: Two Mississippi Kites, an adult and an immature, passed over the Quaker Ridge Hawkwatch in Connecticut just outside Westchester County on 14 October. The birds were moving southwest towards the county but were either not seen or not reported by anyone from this Region.

CONTRIBUTORS

Scott Baldinger, Kyle Bardwell, Andrew Block, Michael Bochnik, Frank Bonanno, Barbara Butler, John Burroughs Natural History Society, Steve Chorvas, Judith Cinquina, Drew Ciganek, Jen Conrad, Tom Crepet, Justine
70 *The Kingbird* 2010 March; 60 (1)

Davenport, Renee Davis, Mark DeDea, Barbara Dexter, Bonnie Fair, Ken & Carol Fredericks, Tom Fiore, Betsy & Joe Giunta, Arthur Green, Melissa Gillmer, May Guglielmo, John Haas, Wayne Hall, Ken Harris, Ed Higgins, Brian Houser, Mary Iorizzo, Tait Johansson, Rodney Johnson, Art Jones, Doug Koch, Debi Kral, Tom Lake, Christopher Letts, Andreas Kanon, Tom Lake, Joan Mastero, Curt McDermott, Ed McGowan, Barbara & Allan Michelin, Glenn Nystrup, Suzanne O'Rourke, Adrienne Popko, Charlie Roberto, Marge Robinson, Dick Ryley, Steve Sachs, Pete Salmansohn, Sy Schiff, Peter Schoenberger, Ruth Shursky, Ed Spaeth, Allan Spivack, Paul Steineck, Rob Stone, Larry Trachenberg, Benjamin Van Doren, Jim Vellozzi, Lance Verderme, Chet Vincent, Carol Weiss, Chad Witko, Sandra Wright.

ABBREVIATIONS

CPP – Croton Point Park; EGR – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary; LNP – Lenoir Nature Preserve; MC – Marshlands Conservancy; RNC – Rye Nature Center; SGNWR – Shawangunk Grasslands National Wildlife Refuge.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: 2 CPP 18 Sep; 2000 Hook Mt 13 Oct.

Brant: 106 MC 26 Nov.

Wood Duck: 1584 Bashakill 24 Sep; 2106 Bashakill 1 Oct.

Gadwall: arr Stonykill 1 Oct; 8 EGR 26 Oct.

Am. Wigeon: arr 3 Kiamasha L 3 Oct; 2 EGR 26 Oct.

N. Pintail: arr 4 Thompson Pd 7 Oct; MC 17 Oct; 8 Pine Plains 3 Nov; 10 Pine Plains 20 Nov; 15 Thompson Pd 26 Nov.

Green-winged Teal: 4 CPP 9 Sep.

Redhead: 2 Mill Dam Pond, Stone Ridge 8 Nov.

Ring-necked Duck: arr 8 Union Vale 5 Oct; 150 Union Vale 1 Nov; 126 Stanford 10 Nov (AP); 4 Wappinger Creek 15 Nov.

Greater Scaup: arr 6 EGR 17 Oct; 5500 EGR 26 Nov.

Lesser Scaup: arr CPP 7 Oct; 60 EGR 31 Oct; 50 River Rd, Esopus 21 Nov; 1500 EGR 19, 26 Nov.

White-winged Scoter: Piermont Pier 24 Oct (CW, DC); 12 East Fishkill 24 Oct (B&AM); 10 EGR 26 Nov.

Black Scoter: 16 Neversink Res 16, 17 Oct (LV, JH); 50 Halcyon L, Pine Plains 24 Oct (DKo, AJ, BB); 30 Abel's pond, Union Vale 24 Oct (BB); 20 Millbrook 24 Oct; 12 Redwing Pond, Beekman 24 Oct (BB); 42 Rhinebeck 25 Oct.

Long-tailed Duck: CPP 8, 12, 14 Nov (KB, CI); Chelsea 16, 30 Nov (RJ); 10 River Rd, Esopus 21 Nov (JBNHS).

Bufflehead: 58 EGR 7 Nov.

Com. Goldeneye: arr 4 Yankee L 31 Oct.

Hooded Merganser: arr 10 Strauss Marsh 25 Oct; 41 EGR 7 Nov.

Com. Merganser: arr 7 Salt Pt 15 Oct.

Red-breasted Merganser: arr 2 Wappingers L 25 Oct; 8 EGR 7 Nov; 20 EGR 26 Nov.

Ruddy Duck: arr 8 Swan L 17 Oct; 83 L Oniad, Wappinger 7 Nov.

Ring-necked Pheasant: Washington 29 Oct; MC 16 Nov.

Ruffed Grouse: 2 Poughkeepsie 4 Nov.

Red-throated Loon: 5 EGR 14, 24 Nov.

Com. Loon: 2 CPP 2 Sep (KB); 3 EGR 7 Nov.

Horned Grebe: Kiamasha L 16 Oct (LV); 3 Ashokan Res 7 Nov (JBNHS); Piermont Pier 14 Nov (CW). CPP 19 Nov (CL).

Red-necked Grebe: Ashokan Res 7 Nov (JBNHS).

WESTERN GREBE: Piermont Pier 10-13 Nov (CW).

N. Gannet: Harriman SP 29 Dec (EM, MGi, JCo), 3rd Rockland record. *intro:* 5 EGR 7, 24 Nov; MC 17 Nov; 7 EGR 25 Nov.

Great Cormorant: arr Norrie Pt 15 Nov.

Great Egret: 5 MC 4, 6 Oct; CPP 7 Oct; 2 MC 2 Nov.

Snowy Egret: Brockway 18 Sep; 6 MC 10 Oct; CPP 9 Oct; 2 MC 19 Oct; MC 3 Nov.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 9 EGR 30 Sep.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: Rhinebeck 11 Oct (RJ).

Black Vulture: 21 Millbrook School 24 Nov.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: 34 Mt Peter 16 Sep; CPP 31 Oct; 2 Piermont Pier 1 Nov; Twin Lakes, Eastchester 17-22 Nov; L Stahahe, Harriman SP 21,22 Nov (JV).

Bald Eagle: 19 Hook Mt 19 Sep; 14 LNP 19 Sep; 12 LNP 10 Oct; record totals for the hawk watches for the season included: Chestnut Ridge 64, Hook Mountain 125, Lenoir 77, and Mt Peter 45.

N. Harrier: 6 SGNWR 21 Nov.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 101 Mt Peter 10 Oct.

Broad-winged Hawk: 1411 Hook Mt 15 Sep; 920 Summitville 15 Sep; 1297 Mt Peter 16 Sep; 1312 Mt Peter 18 Sep; 748 Summitville 18 Sep; 1058 LNP 18 Sep; 2074 Hook Mt (500 in one kettle) 20 Sep.

Red-tailed Hawk: 129 Mt Peter 6 Nov; partial albino Pine 1 15 Nov.

Rough-legged Hawk: Chestnut Ridge 1 Nov; Hook Mt 2 Nov; Esopus Bend Nature Preserve 29 Nov.

Golden Eagle: Summitville 10 Oct; 3 Summitville 11(JH); Oct; MC 17 Oct; 2 Hook Mt 29 Oct (SSc, JG); Mt Peter 12, 23, 25 Oct 10 Nov.

Am. Kestrel: 36 Mt Peter 13 Sep.

Peregrine Falcon: many scattered reports.

Clapper Rail: 2 MC 21 Sep, 4 Oct.

Virginia Rail: 7 Ferncliff Forest, Rhinebeck 2 Sep.

Sora: Thompson Pd 7 Oct.

Am. Golden-Plover: 9 Skinners Lane, Pine Island 12 Sep (CM, RSt, WH).

Semipalmated Plover: MC 21 Sep.

Killdeer: 28 MC 5 Oct.

Am. Oystercatcher: MC 18 Sep; EGR 3 Oct.

Greater Yellowlegs: 7 MC 20 Sep.

Lesser Yellowlegs: 20 Montgomery 12 Sep.

Hudsonian Godwit: Skinners Lane, Pine Island 12 Sep (CM, RSt, WH); Oil City Road, Pine Island 12 Sep (CM, RSt, WH). possibly the same bird.

Least Sandpiper: 30 Montgomery 12 Sep.

Pectoral Sandpiper: 4 Montgomery 12 Sep; 10 Bashakill 30 Sep; MC 16, 17 Oct.

Purple Sandpiper: 8 EGR 19 Nov; Saugerties Lighthouse 28 Nov (AS, JM), 1st record ULST.

Dunlin: Monticello 18, 19 Oct (JH,LV).

Stilt Sandpiper: 3 Oil City Road, Pine Island 12 Sep (CM, RSt, WH); Montgomery 12 Sep (CM, RSt, WH).

Short-billed Dowitcher: Oil City Road, Pine Island 12 Sep (CM, RSt, WH).

Bonaparte's Gull: 2 CPP 8 Oct (JCI);

Kingston Point Beach 8 Nov (MD).

Laughing Gull: 40 EGR 27 Sep; 50 MC 6 Oct; 12 EGR 25 Oct; 5 EGR 20 Nov.

Iceland Gull: Monticello 29 Oct (JH).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Beacon Waterfront Park 9 Nov (DR).

Forster's Tern: 2 Rye 17 Oct.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Eurasian Collared-Dove: 2 Forsyth Nature Center, Kingston 4 Oct (MD), escapes?

Barn Owl: Fishkill 2, 8 Nov (PSa,ES).

Snowy Owl: Wappingers Falls 15 Nov (BF), photo.

Short-eared Owl: arr SGNWR 29 Nov.

N. Saw-whet Owl: 5 Youngsville 8 Oct (RD); Stanford 17 Oct (K&CF).

Com. Nighthawk: 150 Harriman 3 Sep; 21 MC 18 Sep.

Red-headed Woodpecker: LNP 1, 25,29 Sep; Chestnut Ridge Hawkwatch 25 Sep; 3 Chestnut Ridge Hawkwatch 1 Oct; Rockefeller SP 4, 8, 9 Nov; 2 ad & 3 imm Humpo Marsh 3, 8, 21 Nov.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 8 LNP 11 Oct.

N. Flicker: 35 LNP 11 Oct.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: 2 Mt Peter 1 Sep; Mt Peter 5, 9 Sep.

E. Wood-Pewee: 14 Ferncliff Forest, Rhinebeck 2 Sep.

N. Shrike: West Saugerties Rd, Woodstock 8 Nov (PSc).

White-eyed Vireo: Gardiner 4 Nov (BH).

Philadelphia Vireo: East Kingston 7, 27 (MD,PSc); Wurtsboro 7 Sep (SB,JH); 3 East Kingston 12 Sep (MD); Stewart State Forest, Montgomery 12 Sep (CM, RSt, WH); Bashakill 12, 13 Sep (SB,JH); Verbank 19 Sep (BB); CPP 9 Oct (CR, JD).

Am. Crow: 20-25,000 old Delaval site, Poughkeepsie 21 Nov (CV).

Fish Crow: 20 Dennings Pt 28 Nov.

Horned Lark: 50 Red Hook 10 Nov.

Tree Swallow: 170 EGR 18 Oct.

Marsh Wren: 3 EGR 6 Oct; Thompson Pd 6 Oct (CV).

E. Bluebird: 12 SGNWR 21 Nov.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: Bashakill 14 Sep (SB).

Gray Catbird: 20 MC 5 Oct.

Am. Pipit: 4 CPP 12 Sep; 50 Washington 1 Oct; 60 Vassar Farm 5 Oct; 30 Southlands Horse Farm, Rhinebeck 17 Oct; 15 CPP 17 Oct; 28 Bashakill 17 Oct; 30 SGNWR 21 Nov; 18 Northeast 24.

Cedar Waxwing: 610 MC 10 Nov (TB).

WARBLERS

Orange-crowned Warbler: MC 20 Oct, 10, 16 Nov; EGR 26 Nov.

Nashville Warbler: 20 LNP 25 Sep; 4 CPP 13 Oct.

Yellow Warbler: Saugerties Lighthouse Trail 26 Sep (SC), late; MC 16 Nov (TB), very late.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: 7 LNP 25 Sep.

Magnolia Warbler: 24 East Kingston 7 Sep (MD); 10 LNP 25 Sep.

Cape May Warbler: White Plains 8 Sep; CPP 9 Oct.

Black-throated Green Warbler: 24 East Kingston 7 Sep (MD); 25 LNP 25 Sep.

Palm Warbler: 50 LNP 25 Sep; 50 CPP 9 Oct.

Bay-breasted Warbler: East Kingston 7 Sep; Bashakill 12 Sep.

N. Waterthrush: Bronxville 8 Oct.

Connecticut Warbler: Reese Park, T of Wappinger 6 Sep (KH); banded Cary IES 16 Sep (CW).

Mourning Warbler: LNP 1 Sep; Stewart State Forest, Montgomery 12 Sep.

Com. Yellowthroat: 18 MC 5 Oct; 15 CPP 9 Oct.

Wilson's Warbler: MC 20 Oct.

Yellow-breasted Chat: MC 17-19 Sep (TB).

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Rockland L SP15 Oct.

Vesper Sparrow: Benedict Park, Montgomery 11 Oct; 4 Southlands Horse Farm, Rhinebeck

17 Oct; Bashakill 17 Oct; 2 CPP 22 Oct; 2 SGNWR 24, 25 Oct.

Savannah Sparrow: 20 LNP 25 Sep; 20 CPP 10 Oct.

Nelson's Sparrow: 2 MC 4, 6 Oct (MB, BV, PO); Southlands Horse Farm, Rhinebeck 17, 20-31 Oct (PSc, MD, CM, CV, BB); 4 MC 21 Oct.

Saltmarsh Sparrow: 2 MC 4 Oct.

Fox Sparrow: arr Southlands Horse Farm, Rhinebeck 17 Oct.

Lincoln's Sparrow: MC 26 Sep, 5, 6, 20 Oct; 2 CPP 7 Oct; CPP 9 Oct; 3 Benedict Park, Montgomery 11 Oct.

Swamp Sparrow: 50 CPP 10 Oct; 50 MC 20 Oct.

White-throated Sparrow: Red Hook 16 Sep.

White-crowned Sparrow: many scattered reports; 10 CPP 16 Oct.

Dark-eyed Junco: arr MC 17 Oct.

Snow Bunting: few CPP 27, 31 Oct; 2

Bashakill 29 Oct; 4 Piermont Pier 31 Oct;

Mohonk Preserve 31 Oct; 5 East Kingston 31 Oct; 6 Piermont Pier 1 Nov.

Dickcissel: f CPP 22, 25 Oct (CR, LT).

Bobolink: 19 Stonykill 12 Spt.

Red-winged Blackbird: 2000 MC 3 Nov.

Rusty Blackbird: 5 Mt Peter 8 Oct; 300 Hook Mt 9 Nov (CW).

Com. Grackle: 1000 Hook Mt 19 Oct (CW).

Pine Siskin: Roosevelt Cove 11 Oct (DKr); 4 MC 16 Nov.

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REGION 10—MARINE

Seth Ausubel

118-17 Union Turnpike, Forest Hills, NY 11375

sausubel@nyc.rr.com

The fall season produced generally few birds, continuing the trend of recent years. Among an abundance of reports, there was a good showing of seabirds and some exceptional rarities.

September's mean temperature was 64.3°F, 1.5° below normal. The monthly precipitation was 2.65", 0.74" below normal. Almost half fell during the storm of 26-27 September. October's mean temperature was 53.5°, 0.8° below normal. Monthly precipitation was 5.23", 1.6" above normal. The storm of 23-24 October dropped 1.5-2" of rain across the Region. November was warm and dry. The mean temperature of 49.2° was 4.3° above normal. Monthly

precipitation at Islip was 2.93", 0.93" below normal. Other stations in the Region reported precipitation from 2-2.75" below normal.

The season was punctuated by a number of storms producing strong easterly winds and some outstanding seabird flights. On the other hand, cold fronts producing northwest winds and good land bird flights were few. A series of westerly and northwesterly cold fronts in September and October produced strong winds, exceeding 25 mph, and minimal bird movement. Conditions in November were mild and not conducive for pronounced land bird migration.

Several notable seabird flights were associated with storms in September and October. These followed a summer season during which seabirds were seen persistently and in large numbers along the ocean beaches. Over 2000 eastbound terns were observed in 20 minutes at Amagansett on 11 September by Angus Wilson. Others noted over 1000 terns gathering around Jones Inlet on 10-12 September, building to 2000 on 14 September. On 27 September, Angus noted a movement of over 100 jaegers, 88 identified as Parasitic. This flight also featured a **Northern Fulmar**, several Cory's Shearwaters, a Greater Shearwater, and a Black-legged Kittiwake. Most of these birds were seen from Main Beach, East Hampton. Flights on 3, 17, and 24 October featured, variously, good numbers of sea ducks, gulls, terns, jaegers, and tubenoses, including another Northern Fulmar.

Passerine diversity peaked on 16 September with the passage of a front producing northeast winds and cool, cloudy conditions. 25 species of warblers were noted in Central Park, with similar diversity in other city parks.

Coastal land bird flights on 5 and 10 October featured the expected species generally in low numbers, but with greater numbers of Cedar Waxwings, with a maximum of 950 noted at Ft. Tilden on 5 October. Migratory finch numbers were extremely low throughout the season. The maximum number of American Goldfinches reported on the barrier beaches was a paltry 45. Pine Siskins were virtually absent after last year's large irruption. Owls were very scarce in migration.

Populations of arctic-breeding geese have increased greatly in recent years, probably contributing to the increase in records of several species rare in Region 10. A **Pink-footed Goose** was found on 3 November by Ken and Sue Feustel at Sunken Meadow State Park (Fig. B, p. 42). Shai Mitra and Pat Lindsay went looking for the bird later that day and found a **Barnacle Goose**, too (Fig. C, p. 42). These birds were later joined by a "Richardson's" Cackling Goose, and all three birds continued to be seen in the area through late November.

Two cooperative Cackling Geese on Staten Island were among the highlights of the season. The birds were found by Seth Wollney on 16 October on grounds across from the entrance to the Mt. Loretto Unique Area. They remained there through the end of November, providing many opportunities for close comparison and photographs. One of the birds was a "Richardson's" Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii hutchinsii*), the typical subspecies seen in the northeastern United States. The other was a small, dark-breasted bird that was studied extensively and may be of the subspecies *B. h. minima*, "**Ridgway's**" **Cackling Goose** (Fig. D, p. 42). Literature reviewing the status and distribution

of Cackling Goose subspecies indicates that "Ridgway's" Cackling Goose breeds along Alaska's North Slope and winters from Washington State to California but mainly in the Willamette Valley, Oregon. It has seldom been observed outside of its range and never documented in New York State. It should be noted that the taxonomy of Cackling Goose subspecies is still a matter of debate, and the identification challenges are substantial. Nevertheless, this distinctive bird was one of the most interesting of the season for many birders.

Waterfowl numbers were mostly low throughout the season. Canvasback may be declining in Region 10, and several other freshwater ducks were scarce. Common Eiders were reported in large numbers from eastern Long Island ocean viewpoints early in the season and persisted in good numbers, both east and west, through November.

Two reports of Northern Bobwhite from the barrier islands, including five immature birds at Lido Beach, follow a number of reports from the barrier islands during the past two summers. As noted in the summer 2009 Region 10 report, this species is local and declining at mainland locations. Most of the few recent reports are from the beaches.

Numbers of American Kestrels and Sharp-shinned Hawks at the Fire Island Hawkwatch during the fall 2009 season continue to reflect the widespread declines in these species documented over the past 30 years or so. Numbers of kestrels, after having stabilized for the past five years, were the lowest observed in the twenty-eight years of the hawkwatch, 62% below the 20-year average. Sharp-shinned Hawks were near record low numbers, 36% below the 20-year average. Numbers of Peregrine Falcons and Cooper's Hawks recorded at the Fire Island Hawkwatch were well above 20-year averages.

Numbers of "grasspipers" on the sod fields in Suffolk County and elsewhere in Region 10 were very low. There were only six individual Buff-breasted Sandpipers reported in the Region all season. The maximum of American Golden-Plovers was only seven, with only 30-35 birds reported all season. Astonishing numbers of several common late fall shorebirds were noted aggregating around Jones Beach State Park in late October and early November, especially on the beach near Field 6. Maxima of 9950 Dunlin on 29 October and 3200 Black-bellied Plovers and 370 Red Knots on 8 November were reported.

An unusual coastal flight of Black-legged Kittiwakes was first observed on 21 November, when Doug Futuyma noticed large numbers streaming westward at Robert Moses State Park. The word spread, and a number of observers subsequently noted the flight. Approximately 75-100 birds per hour were observed passing that morning at Robert Moses and Jones Beach State Park. Birds were also observed at a number of other locations, including Montauk Point, Sagaponack, and Mecox west to Ft. Tilden. My combined estimate of 475 birds from all locations is probably quite conservative, as several observers, myself included, noted much larger numbers of gulls offshore. Smaller numbers of Black-legged Kittiwakes were observed lingering near shore to 26 November, when five were noted at Breezy Point. The weather was quite calm and mild throughout this period. In Region 10, large numbers of Black-legged Kittiwakes are typically associated with easterly storms at eastern Long Island viewpoints.

The numbers observed along the western beaches during this flight have not previously been recorded.

Royal Terns continue to increase in Region 10. There were 45 reports involving hundreds of birds. Impressive numbers gathered in Jones Inlet, building to a maximum of 73 on 29 October. Numbers there dropped to a very respectable 46 on 2 November and thereafter only a few. Birds were reported from as far east as Ditch Plains on 24 October and as far west as Lemon Creek, Staten Island. The last report was 23 November at Robert Moses State Park.

Common Ravens continued their presence in the Region, with two or more birds in northern Nassau County likely present through the season and another two reported from Sunnyside, Staten Island, on 11 November.

Perhaps the most enjoyable rarity of the fall season was Howie Fischer's immature male **Rufous Hummingbird**, which frequented his yard in Grymes Hill, Staten Island, from 10 October through the reporting season.

A memorable **Ash-throated Flycatcher** was found by Rudy Badia, Heydi Lopes, and Richard Aracil on 22 November in a weedy lot near the subway station in South Ozone Park, Queens (Fig. H, p. 44). The bird was seen at this seemingly unlikely location through the end of November. (See article elsewhere in this issue.)

An impressive but somewhat frustrating bird was an immature gray **Gyr Falcon** (Fig. A, p. 41). It was seen by many birders and photographers on 25 October at West End, Jones Beach State Park, and was photographed feeding on and then carrying off an adult Herring Gull! However, it was thought at the time to be a Peregrine Falcon of the Arctic race, *tundrius*, and was only identified as a Gyr Falcon after Luke Ormond shared his spectacular photographs (and suspicions concerning its actual identity) with several birders. While most of the fewer than 100 New York State records of Gyr Falcon are from the winter, the species has been documented in all 12 months of the year.

There were several other notable rarities during the fall season. A **Sandwich Tern** was among the storm birds seen by Angus Wilson on 12 September at East Hampton. Two **Golden Eagles** were seen in mid-October, the first an immature in Queens by Shane Blodgett and the second an adult bird in Brooklyn by Peter Dorosh and Mary Eyster. A **Sandhill Crane** was found by Eileen Schwinn on 29 November at Dune Road in East Quogue. This follows several sightings of single birds in Region 10 recently, including Orient in June 2009 and Gabreski Airport, Westhampton, in May. Shai Mitra had a **Pomarine Jaeger** at Montauk Point on 8 November. Starr Saphir found a **Sedge Wren** in Central Park on 10 October. Sam Jannazzo and Pat Jones found a **Western Tanager** at Jones Beach West End on 26 October. Described as a male, this bird, unfortunately, did not stay long. Finally, Orhan Birol reported a **Yellow-headed Blackbird** in the marsh at his home in East Quogue on 9 October.

Among 25 or more species reported later into the season than usual, several reports approached or exceeded recently documented extreme dates in the Region, including: White-rumped Sandpiper, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Great-crested Flycatcher, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Tennessee

Warbler, Prairie Warbler, and Connecticut Warbler. Acadian Flycatcher, a bird probably continuing from spring in Valley Stream, was notable on 5 September.

CONTRIBUTORS

Robert Adamo (RA), Deborah Allen, Richard Aracil, John & Kirsten Askildsen, Seth Ausubel, Andrew Baksh, Andy Baldelli (AB), Rudy Badia, Bill Belford, Ardith Biondi (ABI), Catherine Barron, Matt Bayer, Gail Benson, Bobby Berlingeri, Shawn M. Billerman, Orhan Birol, Shane Blodgett, Brent Bomkamp, Joe Buccellato, Paul A. Buckley, Thomas W. Burke, Vicki Bustamante, Ben Cacace (BC), Brad Carlson, Jim Clinton, Jr., Mike Cooper, Steve D'Amato, Alice Deutsch, Joseph DiCostanzo (JDi), Peter Dorosh, Jacob Drucker, Mary Eyster, Andrew Farnsworth, Ken Feustel, Sue Feustel, Corey Finger, Tom Fiore, Ted Floyd (TFL), Howie Fischer, Brendan Fogarty, Doug Futuyma, Paul Gillen, Joe Giunta, John Gluth (JGI), Isaac Grant, Bob Grover, Frank Guida, Timothy Guida, Nick Hamblet, Joel Horman, Marshall Iliff, Sam Jannazzo, Rob Jett, Pat Jones, Kevin Karlson, Rich Kelly, David Klauber, Robert J. Kurtz, Anthony J. Lauro, Eve Levine, Al Lindberg, Patricia J. Lindsay, Heydi Lopes, Jean Loscalzo, Peter Martin, Robert May, Hugh McGuinness, Keith Michael, Eric Miller, Shaibal S. Mitra, Steve Nanz, Mary Normandia, Kevin O'Leary, Vinny Pellegrino, Jason Pietrzak, Peter Post, Bev Prentice, Anne Purcell, Joan Quinlan, Jeff Ritter, Bobby Rossetti, Barbara Rubenstein (BRU), Eric Salzman, Starr Saphir, Sy Schiff (SyS), Donna Schulman (DSH), Eileen Schwinn, John Sepenoski, Mike Shanley, David Speiser, Lloyd Spitalnik, Carl Starace, Jeff Stetson, Richard Veit, Joe Viglietta, Steve Walter, Christina Wilkinson, Rich Willott, Alex Wilson, Angus Wilson, Jordan Wolf, Seth Ian Wollney, Chris Wood, Byron Young, Larry Zirlin.

ABBREVIATIONS

APP – Alley Pd P, QUEE; BP – Breezy Pt, QUEE; CB – Cedar Beach, Babylon, SUFF; CCP – Cupsogue CP, SUFF; CHP – Conference House P, RICH; CP – Central Park, NEWY; CRSP – Connetquot R SP, SUFF; DOP – Drier-Offernam P, KING; DP – Democrat Pt, SUFF; FBF – Floyd Bennett Field, KING; FIHW – Fire I Hawkwatch, SUFF; FMCP – Flushing Meadows-Corona Park, QUEE; FP – Forest Park, QUEE; FT – Fort Tilden, QUEE; GKP – Great Kills P, RICH; Grumman – former Grumman property, Calverton, SUFF; HHSP – Hither Hills SP, SUFF; HLSP – Hempstead L SP, NASS; HSP – Hecksher SP, SUFF; Jam Bay – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, QUEE; JBSP – Jones Beach SP, NASS; JBWE – West End, Jones Beach SP, NASS; KP – Kissena Park, QUEE; Mass – Massapequa Preserve, NASS; MB – Mecox Bay, SUFF; MI – Moriches In, SUFF; MLUA – Mt. Loretto Unique Area, RICH; MNSA – Marine Nature Study Area, Oceanside, NASS; MP – Montauk Pt, SUFF; PBP – Pelham Bay P, BRON; PB – Pikes Beach, SUFF; PP – Prospect P, KING; RBA – New York Rare Bird Alert; RMSP – Robert Moses SP, SUFF; RP – Riis P, QUEE; Sagg – Sagaponack Pd, SUFF; Shinn – Shinnecock In, SUFF; SPCP – Smith Pt CP,

SUFF; SMSP – Sunken Meadow SP, SUFF; VSSP – Valley Stream SP, NASS; WPP – Wolfe's Pd P, RICH. For other locations mentioned more than once below, the county is given in the first citation but not thereafter.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE: SMSP 3 Nov (K&SF, mob), ph SSM; same bird Kings Park High School, SUFF 11 Nov (B. Carlson, *fide* SSM), reported in area thru Nov (mob).

Greater White-fronted Goose: no reports.

Snow Goose: arr 18 Sep; max 350 CP 19 Oct, migr.

Brant: a few continuing from summer; max 6250 Jam Bay.

BARNACLE GOOSE: SMSP 3 Nov (SSM, PJL, mob), ph SSM; same bird Kings Park High School, SUFF 11 Nov (B. Carlson, *fide* SSM), reported in area to 25 Nov (mob).

Mute Swan: max 100 Jam Bay, fewer than recent years.

“Richardson’s” Cackling Goose: MLUA 16 Oct - thru (SIW, mob): Easthampton, SUFF 31 Oct (SSM, PJL); Montauk, SUFF 8 Nov thru (AnW, SSM, mob); SMSP 7 Nov (VP), same bird Kings Park High School 15 Nov (mob), reported in area to 27 Nov; FMCP 11 Nov – thru (SA, CF).

“Ridgway’s” Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii minima*): MLUA 16 Oct - thru (SIW, mob), dark-breasted bird possibly this subspecies, *intro*.

Tundra Swan: Jam Bay 29 Nov (C. Wilkinson), ph.

Wood Duck: 16-27 PP 17-25 Oct; lower numbers otherwise.

Gadwall: max 144 Swan L, Patchogue, SUFF 6 Nov.

Eurasian Wigeon: Centerport, SUFF 4 Oct (B. Bomkamp); 2 Patchogue L, SUFF 8 Nov (SA); 3 Patchogue L 19 Nov (BY).

Am. Wigeon: max 300 Blydenburgh County P, SUFF 28 Nov.

Blue-winged Teal: APP 9 Sep (PJL, *fide* EM), unusual location; max 93 Jam Bay 6 Sep.

N. Shoveler: max 415 PP 19 Oct.

N. Pintail: 35 Tobay, NASS 7 Nov; max 39 Patchogue L 19 Nov.

Green-winged Teal: max 150 Tobay 7 Nov.

Canvasback: arr 7 Nov; very scarce, only 4 reports involving 23 birds; max 14 Weld Preserve, SUFF 29 Nov (JB).

Redhead: arr 4 Nov; scarce, only 2 reports involving 8 birds.

Ring-necked Duck: max 75 Blydenburgh County P 28 Nov.

Greater Scaup: max 2600 Jam Bay 2 Nov (TFI); 2140 Jam Bay 4 Nov (R. Aracil), high.

Lesser Scaup: max 300 Jam Bay 11, 26 Nov.

King Eider: fem. Ditch Plains, SUFF 24-31 Oct (AnW); fem. Pt. Lookout, NASS 17 Nov (KF); ad. male Easthampton 28 Nov (AnW).

Com. Eider: large numbers noted; 50 MP 26 Sep (AJL); max 830 MP 17 Oct (AnW), high number, *intro*; 390 RMSP 1 Nov (SSM, PJL); 200 JBWE 8 Nov (ABi); approximately 100 lingering around Jones Inlet thru; 27 Brighton Beach, KING 15 Nov (SB), unusual location.

Harlequin Duck: arr Pt. Lookout 27 Oct (JV); 2 m Pt. Lookout 7 Nov, plus one fem 24 Nov, & 1-2 thru (mob).

Surf Scoter: JBWE 12 Sep (SA); 330 MP 17 Oct (AnW); 635 MP 27 Oct (TFI, *et al.*); max 700 Georgica Pd, SUFF 31 Oct (SSM, PJL).

White-winged Scoter: max 320 MP 17 Oct (AnW); 50 RMSP 1 Nov; 75 SMSP 4 Nov; low numbers.

Black Scoter: max 4290 MP 17 Oct (AnW); 2000 RMSP 21 Oct (RJK).

Long-tailed Duck: max 500 RMSP 10 Oct (SSM, PJL).

Bufflehead: max 305 Jam Bay 2 Nov (TFI); 279 SPCP 9 Nov.

Com. Goldeneye: arr 7 Nov; scarce; only 5 reports involving 14 birds.

Hooded Merganser: max 35 SMSP 12 Nov, low.

Com. Merganser: fem SMSP 8 Nov (C. Wood, *et al.*), only report.

N. Bobwhite: 5 imm. Lido Passive Nature Center, NASS 2 Sep (B. Berlingeri); SPCP 9 Oct (CS).

Red-throated Loon: max 110 MP 29 Nov (MI).

Com. Loon: max 150 Camp Hero SP, SUFF 21 Nov.

Horned Grebe: PBP 13 Sep (R. Aracil), very early; Patchogue L 8 Nov (SA), unusual location.

Red-necked Grebe: RMSP 25 Oct (SSM, PJL); MP 8 Nov (TWB, GB); Sheepshead Bay, KING 8-11 Nov (SN, RJ, SB); 2 Sheepshead Bay 12 Nov (SB); Captree SP, SUFF 15 Nov (SA); Jam Bay 22 Nov – thru (A. Baksh, DK, SA); Montauk 26 Nov (AnW).

N. Fulmar: Easthampton, SUFF 27 Sep (AnW); Ditch Plains 24 Oct (AnW).

Cory's Shearwater: 9 Easthampton, 1 Amagansett, SUFF 11 Sep (AnW); 17

Easthampton, 6 Montauk 27 Sep (AnW); MP 18 Oct (AnW); 5 RMSP 23 Oct (KF); 2 Ditch Plains, 2 MP, 24 Oct. (AnW); 4 RMSP 25 Oct (SSM, PJJ); MP 31 Oct (AnW).
Greater Shearwater: MP 27 Sep (AnW).
N. Gannet: 400 RMSP 11 Nov (SSM), 30 min count of migr; 2000 MP 14 Nov (AJL); imm Cold Spring Harbor, SUFF 17 Nov (PM), unusual location.
Great Cormorant: arr Orient, SUFF 27 Sep (JSe).
Am. Bittern: KP 2 Oct (EM), unusual location.
Little Blue Heron: imm Fresh Kills P, RICH 22 Nov (SIW, *et al.*), last.
Tricolored Heron: 1 Jam Bay thru 22 Sep.
Cattle Egret: FBF 19-22 Nov (RJ, mob); Mecox, SUFF 21 Nov thru (PJJ, mob).
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: 10 Cammans P, NASS 10 Oct (SSM, PJJ); 3 DOP thru 15 Oct (AxW); last rep 24 Oct.
Black Vulture: no reports.
Turkey Vulture: approx 15 LI reports, e.g. 14 Mattituck, SUFF 17 Oct; 6 Mattituck 30 Oct (*fide* BP); migr JBWE 16 Nov (SA), rare on barrier beach.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: total 264 FIHW; Graniteville, RICH 23 Nov (RS), late.
Bald Eagle: WPP 26 Sep (SyS); 2 imm Sag Harbor, SUFF 8 Oct; 2 imm, 1 ad same loc 9 Oct; 1 imm same loc 16 Nov (HM); FIHW 16 Oct.
N. Harrier: total 181 FIHW.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: total 291, 36% below 20-yr ave.
Cooper's Hawk: total 47 FIHW, 70% above the 20-year average.
N. Goshawk: juv Montauk 17 Oct (SSM, PJJ), ph; FIHW 2 Nov; imm Fresh Kills P, RICH 22 Nov (SIW, *et al.*), only reports.
Red-shouldered Hawk: DOP 5 Sep (AxW); PP 31 Oct (PD).
Red-tailed Hawk: 3 rep from barrier beach, where rare.
GOLDEN EAGLE (R10): imm Howard Beach, QUEE 14 Oct (SB!); ad. DOP 17 Oct (PD!, ME).
Am. Kestrel: total 518 FIHW, 62% below 20-yr ave, all time low.
Merlin: total 1291 FIHW, ave number.
GYRFALCON: imm gray phase, JBWE 25 Oct (mob, ph L, Ormond, JGI, GB), id by photos, *intro*.
Peregrine Falcon: total 290 FIHW, 61% above 20-year average..

Sora: MNSA 23 Sep (SyS); MP 24 Oct (AnW); Herricks, NASS 5 Nov (B. Belford), found dead; follows a bird found dead at same location 7 Aug.
Com. Moorhen: imm Garvies Pt, Glen Cove, NASS, 21 Sep - 14 Nov (MN ph); River Rd., RICH 25 Oct (CB).
SANDHILL CRANE (R10): East Quogue, SUFF 29 Nov (E. Schwinn ph, mob), *intro*.
Black-bellied Plover: 875 JBSP 29 Oct (TFI); 1200 JBSP 1 Nov (SSM, PJJ); max 3200 JBSP 8 Nov (CW, *et al.*), very large number; 30 Shoreham, SUFF 22 Nov (JH), unusual on sod field this date.
Am. Golden-Plover: 1-2 Jam Bay thru 22 Sep (mob); 2 JBWE 10 Sep (PM); Plumb Beach, KING 13 Sep (SB); max 7 Riverhead, SUFF 18 Sep (K&SF), low; 6 Riverhead 25 Sep (AJL); 4 Mattituck, SUFF 22 Oct (*fide* PG); Plumb Beach 24 Oct (SB); JBWE 25 Oct (KF), 29 Oct (TFI); Plumb Beach 26-29 Oct (SB); JBSP 1 Nov (SSM, PJJ), last.
Piping Plover: juv. Plumb Beach 17 Oct (SB), late.
Killdeer: 32 migr FT 5 Oct (SA); 50 Goethals Bridge Pd, RICH 12 Oct (RV); 24 Spring Creek, KING 16 Nov (SB).
Am. Oystercatcher: max 450 JBSP 12 Sep (SSM, PJJ); 373 Jones Inlet, NASS 6 Oct (PAB).
Am. Avocet: 2 Jam Bay thru 1 Sep, 1 continuing thru 25 Sep (mob); Baiting Hollow, SUFF 27 Oct (*fide* AJL).
Solitary Sandpiper: DOP 5 Sep (AxW); Easthampton 4 Oct (SSM, PJJ); PP 1 Nov (PD), late.
Willet: max 6 "eastern" CCP 6 Sep (SSM, PJJ); max 60 "western" JBWE 13 Sep (SSM, PJJ); 2 "western" JBWE, 30 Oct (SA), last.
Upland Sandpiper: Dix Hills, SUFF 23 Sep (*fide* AJL).
Whimbrel: 2 JBWE 3 Sep (SyS); Tobay 8 Sep (PM); RMSP 12 Sep (SSM, PJJ); 3 JBWE 15 Sep (PJJ); RMSP 19 Sep (RJK); 2 DOP thru 18 Sep, (RJ, mob).
Hudsonian Godwit: no reports.
Marbled Godwit: JBWE 12-13 Sep (SA, mob).
Red Knot: 360 JBSP 29 Oct (TFI); 151 JBSP 1 Nov (SSM, PJJ); max 370 JBSP 8 Nov (CW, *et al.*); 120 JBWE 15 Nov (SW); large numbers.
Sanderling: max 850 BP 31 Oct.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: Plumb Beach 26 Oct (SB), last.
Western Sandpiper: 2 Jam Bay 22 Sep (TF); Plumb Beach 29 Oct (SB); 3-4 JBSP 1-2 Nov

(SSM, PJL, SA); Montauk 7 Nov (SA, DK, RM).

White-rumped Sandpiper: max 12 Jam Bay 4 Sep (SA); 6 Jam Bay 22 Sep (TF); 1 Mecox, SUFF 3 Oct (AnW); 2 Mecox 16 Oct (SSM); Montauk 16 Oct (SSM); 3 Montauk 17 Oct (HM); 5 RMSP 23-25 Oct (SSM, PJL, RJK); 2 Georgica Pd 31 Oct (SSM); Montauk 7 Nov (RK, *et al.*); 2 Oak Beach, SUFF 19 Nov (KF), late.

Baird's Sandpiper: Cutchogue, SUFF 1 Sep (RW); JBWE 7 Sep (SA).

Pectoral Sandpiper: 2 Jam Bay 15 Sep; 3 Jam Bay 4 Oct (SW); 10 Goethals Bridge Pond 12 Oct (RV); 2 Montauk 16 Oct (SSM); 2 Big Egg Marsh, QUEE 20-23 Oct (SB, A. Baksh); 2 Montauk 1 Nov (TWB).

Purple Sandpiper: arr 27 Oct.

Dunlin: max 9950 JBSP 29 Oct (TFI); 6400 JBSP 1 Nov (SSM, PJL); 5500 8 Nov (CW, *et al.*); large numbers; 12 Shoreham, SUFF 22 Nov (JH), unusual on sod field this date.

Stilt Sandpiper: max 16 Jam Bay 14 Sep (SB).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: only 6 birds reported: Cutchogue, SUFF 1 Sep (*fide* PG); JBWE 5 Sep (SSM, PJL); JBWE 9 Sep (MB); Eastport, SUFF 12 Sep (RA); Cutchogue 17 Sep (*fide* PG); Riverhead 18 Sep (K&SF).

Short-billed Dowitcher: JBWE 24 Oct, last.

Long-billed Dowitcher: 6 Jam Bay 14 Sep (SB); 4 Jam Bay 2 Oct (SSM); 8 Jam Bay 4 Oct (SW); Goethals Bridge Pd 12 Oct (RV); 2 JBWE 25 Oct (KF).

Wilson's Phalarope: Jam Bay 4-8 Sep (SA, mob).

Red-necked Phalarope: 2 Jam Bay 1 Sep (SyS, JG, KK, mob).

Black-legged Kittiwake: Easthampton, 27 Sep (AnW); 3 Ditch Plains, 1 MP 24 Oct (AnW), *intro*; coastal flight noted eastern SUFF to QUEE 21 Nov (mob), high numbers west, incl: 13 Mecox, 11 Sagg, 5 MP (SSM, PJL), 150-200 RMSP (DF), 150-200 JBSP (TWB), 40 Pt. Lookout (TWB), 35 FT (SA); continuing thru 26 Nov, incl: 30 RMSP 22 Nov (SSM, PJL); 9 Pt. Lookout, 5 JBWE 22 Nov (JGI); 12 FT 22 Nov (SA, mob); 3 RMSP 23 Nov (KF); 5 Breezy Pt 26 Nov (A. Baksh); *intro*; 8 Amagansett-Napeague 26 Nov (AnW); 28 Easthampton 28 Nov (AnW); 45 MP 29 Nov (AnW).

Bonaparte's Gull: max 300 MP 29 Nov (*fide* RBA), low.

Black-headed Gull: Owls Head Wastewater Treatment Plant, KING 10 Nov thru (SB), only report.

Little Gull: 1st winter MP 29 Nov (AnW).

Laughing Gull: max 1700 Montauk 17 Oct; 1500 MP 8 Nov (SSM, PJL).

Ring-billed Gull: 370 Easthampton 3 Oct (AnW), migr; max 750 BP 7 Nov.

Iceland Gull: ad. Shinnecock, SUFF 27 Sep (TWB), early; Montauk 21 Nov (SSM, PJL); Jones Inlet 21 Nov (TWB, GB, RK, A. Baksh); FT 22 Nov (TF); Easthampton 27 Nov (AnW).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 20 reports involving 30 birds, incl: Annadale, RICH 14 Sep thru (*fide* SIW), wintering bird returning for 3rd year, now ad; 3 Easthampton, and 1 MP 27 Sep (AnW); Ft Pond Bay, Montauk 4 Oct (SSM, PJL), ad thru; FT 20 Oct (SB), wintering ad returning.

Glaucous Gull: Caumsett SP, SUFF 1 Nov (PM), rare in Nov, only report.

Caspian Tern: GKP 4 Oct (CB); 4 RMSP 4 Oct (SSM, TWB, mob); RMSP 11 Oct (SyS); 3 Sagg 16 Oct (SSM).

Black Tern: JBWE 12 Sep (SA); RMSP 12 Sep (SSM, PJL), last.

Roseate Tern: 3 Dunc Rd., Shinnecock 2 Sep (SMB); 40 Easthampton 12 Sep (AnW).

Com. Tern: 1000 Jones Inlet 10-12 Sep (SyS, SA); max 2000 Jones Inlet 14 Sep (SSM, PJL); 410 Easthampton 3 Oct (AnW); 4 MP 17 Oct (AnW); BP 31 Oct (SA, BR), Pt. Lookout 7 Nov (SW), late.

Forster's Tern: 6 Shinn 1 Nov (TWB), last; very low numbers in Long Island Sound.

Royal Tern: 45 reports along coast from eastern SUFF to QUEE, RICH; maxima late Oct, especially JBWE, incl: 3 Lemon Cr, RICH 16 Oct (SIW); 3 Ditch Plains 24 Oct (AnW); 37 JBWE 24 Oct (SA); 18 RP-FT 24 Oct (SB); 15 RMSP 25 Oct (SSM, PJL); 48 JBWE 27 Oct (TFI); max 73 JBWE 29 Oct (JV); 52 JBWE 1 Nov (SSM, *et al.*); 3 Shinn 1 Nov (TWB); 46 JBWE 2 Nov (K&SF); 2 RMSP 4 Nov (SSM, PJL); 2 JBWE 7 Nov (SW); 1 JBWE 16 Nov (DF); 2 RMSP 23 Nov (KF), last; *intro*.

SANDWICH TERN: Easthampton 12 Sep (AnW).

Black Skimmer: max 750 Nickerson Beach, NASS 2 Sep (B. Berlingeri); 415 JBWE 15 Sep (SSM, PJL); 4 Coney I, KING 15 – 26 Nov (SB), late.

Pomarine Jaeger: imm MP 8 Nov (SSM!).

Parasitic Jaeger: 2 Amagansett 11 Sep (AnW); 88 Easthampton 27 Sep (AnW, HM), also reported 16 jaeger sp; 2 FT 27 Sep (IG); 22 (16 ad., 6 juv.) Easthampton 3 Oct (AnW); 3 Easthampton 4 Oct (SSM, PJL); 2 Easthampton, 10 Oct (AnW); MP 17 Oct (AnW); RMSP 23 Oct (KF); 3 Ditch Plains, 2 MP 24 Oct (AnW); JBSP 1 Nov (SSM, PJL);

Easthampton 1 Nov (TWB, GB); MP 7 Nov (RK, DK, SA); 9 MP 8 Nov (SSM); Amagansett 26 Nov (AnW),
Razorbill: MP 8 Nov (SSM), only report.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Monk Parakeet: numerous reports in KING, max 35 Greenwood Cemetery; sev rep from PBB; colonies locally to western SUFF.
Barn Owl: JBWE 25 Nov, only report.
Great Horned Owl: 1-2 CP 6 Nov, reported thru 21 Nov (mob), unusual location.
Snowy Owl: no reports.
Long-eared Owl: only 2 rep, JBWE and FBF.
Short-eared Owl: Smith Pt CP 6 Nov (CS), only report.
N. Saw-whet Owl: JBWE 13-14 Nov, only report.
Com. Nighthawk: 2 Silver Lake, RICH 8 Oct (AP).
RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD: imm m Grymes Hill, RICH 10 Oct – thru (HF, mob, ph SIW).
Red-headed Woodpecker: breeding ad Swan L, Calverton, SUFF thru 6 Oct (RM); FT 28 Sep (RK); PP 3 Oct (*fide* AJL); RMSP 4 Oct (SD, *et al.*); 8 Oct FT (*fide* AJL); KP 11 Oct (EM); Clove Lakes P, RICH 30 Nov (CB).

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Clove Lakes P 5 Sep (HF); PP 14 Sep (SB); 8 Oct CP (AD), late.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: CHP 25 Sep (RV); several reports from CP, none from LI.
Acadian Flycatcher: VSSP 5 Sep (B. Berlingeri), likely same bird attempting to breed in spring.
Alder Flycatcher: Bridgehampton, SUFF 5 Sep (SSM, PJL, AB).
ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER: South Ozone Park, QUEE 22 Nov thru (R. Bedia, R. Aracil, H. Lopes, mob), see article this issue.
Great Crested Flycatcher: JBWE 30 Oct (SA, KF, SSM), late.
Western Kingbird: Montauk 25 Oct - 1 Nov (M. McBrien, *fide* SSM, mob); 2 Sagaponack, SUFF 1-2 Nov (AnW, mob); 2 Montauk 8 Nov (GB, TWB); JBWE 29 Nov (SJ, mob).
Northern Shrike: no reports.
Philadelphia Vireo: APP 19-20 Sep (KOL, EM, *et al.*); several reports from CP.
COMMON RAVEN (R10): at least 2 N. NASS thru; 2 Frick Estate, Roslyn Harbor 1 Sep (PM); 2 Glen Cove 19 Sep (MN); 2 Tiffany Creek Preserve, Oyster Bay 5 Nov (RK, AL); 1 Frick Estate, Roslyn Harbor 18 Nov (PM); 2 Sunnyside, RICH 11 Nov (MS).
N. Rough-winged swallow: MP 29 Nov (AnW), late.

Barn Swallow: max 16 RMSP 14 Sep; RMSP 11 Oct (SSM, PJL), late.

Tufted Titmouse: no rep from barrier islands after incursion of small numbers last fall.

SEDGE WREN (R10): CP 10 Oct (SS, mob, ph LS).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: CRSP 4 Oct (PM); Bellmore, NASS 6 Oct (PM); several reports from CP, last 17 Oct (BC).

Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush: APP 14 Sep (SyS, JG, *et al.*).

Swainson's Thrush: 14 Oct JBWE (SW); CP 17 Oct (BC), last.

Hermit Thrush: Gardiner County P, SUFF 2 Sep (PJL), unusual date away from breeding areas; max 113 CP 18 Oct (AF).

Wood Thrush: CP 22 Nov (DA, mob), late.

Am. Robin: max counts 225 CP; very low numbers migr.

Am. Pipit: arr 5 Oct; max 28 JBWE 25 Oct (TWB).

Cedar Waxwing: max 950 migr FT 5 Oct (SA); 800 RMSP 5 Oct (SSM, PJL); widespread throughout.

WARBLERS

"Lawrence's" Warbler: PP 3 Sep (PD).

Golden-winged Warbler: APP 13 Sep (JR, mob); CP 23 Sep (JDi).

Tennessee Warbler: Pt. Lookout 22 Nov (JGI), late.

Orange-crowned Warbler: at least 17 reports involving 20 birds; arr RMSP 6 Oct (SyS, JG, *et al.*); South Ozone Park 29 Nov thru (mob).

Nashville Warbler: VSSP 26 Nov (B. Berlingeri), late.

Yellow Warbler: max 15 Owl's Head 6 Sep; Captree SP 15 Nov (SA), late.

Cape May Warbler: <20 reports; arr Jam Bay 6 Sep (SA); 2 RMSP 14 Sep (KF); 4 PP 19 Sep (SB); last JBWE 8 Oct.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: CP 29 Nov (TF), late.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: migr arr 25 Sep; max 225 RMSP 21 Oct, low.

Yellow-throated Warbler: MP 11 Oct (BRU *fide* AnW), *dominica*.

Prairie Warbler: Westhampton, SUFF 21 Nov (JCJ), late.

Blackpoll Warbler: MLUA 7 Nov (HF), late.

Am. Redstart: CHP 25 Oct (SIW, SA, *et al.*), late.

Ovenbird: CP 22-24 Nov (mob), late.

Connecticut Warbler: FT 13 Sep (PD, *et al.*); DOP 18 Sep (SB); CP 21 Sep (DS); APP 25 Sep (EM); Montauk 4 Oct (SSM, PJL); RMSP 5 Oct (BG, *et al.*); JBWE 8 Oct (KF); CP 25 Oct (EL, mob), late.

Mourning Warbler: South Hempstead, NASS 2 Sep (SyS); East Northport, SUFF 8 Sep (VP); CP 19 Sep (DS, *et al.*); APP 19 Sep (EM); several reports from CP.

Hooded Warbler: PP 14 Sep (SB); Grymes Hill 1 Oct (HF); Montauk 4 Oct (SSM, PJJ), rare in fall eastern LI; CHP 16 Oct (SIW); several reports from CP.

Yellow-breasted Chat: FT 13 Sep (PD, *et al.*); RMSP 19 Sep (KF); MP 21 Nov (SSM, PJJ).

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: CP 10 Nov (PP, mob), late.
WESTERN TANAGER: JBWE 26 Oct (SJ!, PJ).

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Target Rock Refuge, SUFF 26 Oct.

Clay-colored Sparrow: at least 20 reports involving 25 birds; arr RMSP 5 Sep (SSM); last PP 25 Oct (mob).

Vesper Sparrow: KP 11 Oct (EM); MP 17 Oct (HM, *et al.*); KP 17 Oct (DSH); Big Egg Marsh 20 Oct (SB); Centre Island, NASS and Bayville, NASS 24 Oct (BR); PP 24-25 Oct (PD, RJ, mob).

Lark Sparrow: 2 JBWE 13 Sep (SSM, PJJ); FBF 17 Sep (RJ); Oak Beach, SUFF 11 Oct (TWB, GB, mob); JBWE 14 Oct (SW); Montauk 17 Oct (AnW, mob); PP 18-21 Oct (PD, mob); MLUA 21 Oct (TF); Montauk 21 Oct (mob).

Savannah Sparrow: "Ipswich" arr Sagg 16 Oct; 3 St. Charles Cemetery, Farmingdale, SUFF 5 Sep (*fide* SSM), local breeders or early migrants?

Grasshopper Sparrow: KP 6 Oct (EM).

Nelson's Sparrow: approx 15 reports, incl 1 inland; max 7 Plumb Beach 4 Oct (SB), incl 4 *A. n. subvirgatus*; *A. n. nelsoni* MLUA 12 Oct (RV); 2 *nelsoni*, 1 *subvirgatus* Plumb Beach 19 Oct (SA); *subvirgatus* PP 24 Oct (PD, ME, RJ, mob); 2 *subvirgatus* RP 26 Oct (TF); *subvirgatus* Plumb Beach 29 Oct (SB).

Saltmarsh Sparrow: 2 reports from inland locations following storms with strong south-east winds; CP 12 Sep (PP, *et al.*); PP 24 Oct (PD, ME, RJ).

Seaside Sparrow: max 4 Plumb Beach 23 Oct.

Fox Sparrow: arr CP 17 Oct.

Lincoln's Sparrow: at least 22 reports, but scarce on barrier beach; arr RP & FBF 19 Sep (SA, DK); FBF 6 Nov (SB), late.

White-throated Sparrow: max 35 Gilgo 11 Oct, migr numbers very low on barrier beach.

White-crowned Sparrow: imm "Gambel's" RP 10 Oct (SSM!, PJJ).

Dark-eyed Junco: arr JBWE 25 Sep.

Lapland Longspur: Centre Island 24-25 Oct (BR); 2 RMSP 25 Oct (SSM, PJJ); Lemon Cr P, RICH 22 Nov (SIW, *et al.*).

Snow Bunting: arr 24 Oct.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Mashomack Preserve, SUFF 15-28 Nov (*fide* NH); CP 29 Nov thru (DA, mob).

Blue Grosbeak: KP 2 Oct (EM); CHP 9 Oct (RV); DOP 15 Oct (AxW); Montauk, 17 Oct (HM, *et al.*).

Dickcissel: JBWE 25 Sep (BF); RMSP 29 Sep (DK); Cedar Beach 1 Oct (SSM); JBWE 5 Oct (KF); Gilgo Beach 10 Oct (SSM, PJJ), a drab bird; Gilgo Beach 11 Oct (SSM, PJJ, mob), a bright bird; 17 Oct HHSP (HM, AnW); RMSP 26 Oct (K&SF).

Bobolink: max 100 DOP 5 Sep (AxW).

Red-winged Blackbird: migr max 700 DOP 11 Nov (AxW), low numbers throughout.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD (R10): imm East Quogue 9 Oct (OB!).

Rusty Blackbird: arr 24 Sep; very scarce; max 11 NEWY 14 Oct.

Boat-tailed Grackle: max 45 SPCP 22 Nov (JH).

Purple Finch: scarce; approx 20 reports, mostly singles; arr 25 Sep; max 6 SMSP 8 Nov.

Orchard Oriole: Bridgehampton 6 Sep (SSM, PJJ, AB), late.

Pine Siskin: scarce; approx 10 reports, fewer than 50 birds; arr 18 Oct; max 10 Avalon Preserve, Stony Brook, SUFF 29 Nov (JB).

Am. Goldfinch: scarce; migr 29 RMSP 4 Nov; 45 SMSP 8 Nov.

EXOTICS

Black Swan: Jam Bay thru 2 Oct.

Cape Shelduck: Belmont L SP 15 Nov, probably present thru.

European Goldfinch: FBF 19 Sep (SA, DK).

STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS

Regional rarities appear in **BOLD**; county names are shortened to their first four letters and appear in **UPPER CASE** letters; months are shortened to their first three letters. In species accounts: number of individuals omitted implies that one individual was reported; ! – details seen by Regional Editor; ad – adult; Alt – Alternate plumage; Am. – American; arr – arrival or first of season; BBS – Breeding Bird Survey; BOTS – bird of the season; CBC – Christmas Bird Count; CO – confirmed nesting; Com. – Common; E. – Eastern; FL – fledgling; FY – adult feeding young; I – Island; imm – immature; intro – see introduction to report; juv – juvenile; L – Lake; max – maximum; mob – multiple observers; N. – Northern; NYSDEC – New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; NWR – National Wildlife Refuge; NYSARC – report to New York State Avian Records Committee; P – park; Pd – Pond; ph – photographed; Pt – Point; Res – Reservoir; Ri – River; SP – State Park; spm – specimen; subad – subadult; T – Town of; thru – throughout period; Twn – township; W. – Western; WMA – Wildlife Management Area; y – young.

REPORTING REGIONS

Regional boundaries coincide with county lines, except at:

Region 1-Region 2 in Orleans, Genesee and Wyoming Counties:

the boundary is NY Route 98 from Pt. Breeze to Batavia;
NY Route 63 from Batavia to Pavilion, and NY Route 19
from Pavilion to the Allegany County line.

Region 2-Region 3 in Ontario County:

the boundary is Mud Creek to NY Route 64, NY Route 64
from Bristol Center to S. Bristol Springs, and Route 21
from S. Bristol Springs to the Yates County line.

Region 3-Region 5 in Cayuga County:

the boundary is NY Route 31.

REPORTING DEADLINES

Winter Season: December, January, February

Deadline is 7 March

Spring Season: March, April, May

Deadline is 7 June

Summer Season: June, July, August

Deadline is 7 September

Fall Season: September, October, November

Deadline is 7 December

Editor of *The Kingbird*

Shaibal S. Mitra

Biology Dept., College of Staten Island
2800 Victory Blvd., Staten Island, NY 10314

Editor of *New York Birders*

Timothy Baird

242 E. State St., Salamanca, NY 14779

Appointed Committees

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New York State Young Birders Club:

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Waterfowl Count:

Bryan L. Swift

NYSDEC Bureau of Wildlife, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4754

Web Site and Information Services:

Carena Pooth—22 Brothers Rd., Poughquag, NY 12570

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P.O. Box 296
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